

Tuesday January 6 1998

Abu Dhabi D 8.50	Albania USS 2	Algeria FF 10	Andorra AD 30	Antigua G 1.50	Armenia AMD 100	Australia AU 10	Austria S 13.50	Bahamas B 2.00	Bangladesh T 10	Belgium B 10	Belize B 2.00	Bhutan Nu 100	Bolivia B 10	Bosnia B 10	Botswana P 1.00	Brazil R 100	Bulgaria B 10	Cameroon C 100	Canada C 100	Cape Verde E 200	Croatia HR 100	Cyprus C 100	Czechia C 100	Dominican R 100	Ecuador E 100	Egypt E 100	El Salvador S 100	Equatorial G 100	Estonia E 100	Faroe I 100	Finland F 100	France F 100	Germany D 100	Ghana G 100	Greece G 100	Guatemala G 100	Hong Kong HK 100	Hungary H 100	Iceland I 100	India IN 100	Indonesia ID 100	Israel IL 100	Italy I 100	Jamaica J 100	Japan Y 100	Jordan J 100	Kazakhstan K 100	Kenya K 100	Korea S 100	Kuwait K 100	Latvia L 100	Lebanon L 100	Lithuania L 100	Malaysia M 100	Maldives M 100	Mali M 100	Mexico M 100	Moldova M 100	Morocco M 100	Mozambique M 100	Netherlands N 100	New Zealand N 100	Nigeria N 100	North Macedonia N 100	Oman O 100	Pakistan P 100	Panama P 100	Paraguay P 100	Peru P 100	Poland P 100	Portugal P 100	Romania R 100	Russia R 100	Saudi Arabia S 100	Senegal S 100	Serbia S 100	Slovakia S 100	Slovenia S 100	South Africa S 100	Spain S 100	Sri Lanka S 100	Sweden S 100	Switzerland S 100	Taiwan T 100	Tanzania T 100	Thailand T 100	Trinidad T 100	Tunisia T 100	Turkey T 100	Ukraine U 100	USA US 100	UK GB 100	Uruguay U 100	Venezuela V 100	Zimbabwe Z 100
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The Guardian

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

The truth behind a prison killing

The death of an innocent

G2 with European weather

More diet secrets

The music of tum

Health, G2 pages 10-11

Children learn in the outback

Voices across the desert

Education, G2 pages 12-13

Pulp facts



Quentin Tarantino, who gave The Guardian interview at the National Film Theatre last night when he discussed his career and his new film, Jackie Brown, following a special preview

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

Crime 'crisis' based on myth

Ministers accused of playing to gallery

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

PUBLIC ignorance about law and order is widespread and lies at the heart of a crisis of confidence in Britain's courts and judges, according to a Home Office study published yesterday.

The authoritative British Crime Survey says that politicians have been wrong to "play to the gallery" by basing their criminal justice policies during the 1990s on jelling more and more people to feed the public's mistaken appetite for tougher punishments.

"These findings should warn politicians away from populist responses to crime. They show that a populist sentencing policy will not actually achieve much in the long run. It will not actually change public perceptions," said the report's co-author, Professor Michael Hough.

The key findings from the BCS's Attitudes to Punishment survey show that despite more than five years of "prison works" and "get tough" policies from the former Conservative Home Secretary, Michael Howard, there still exists a crisis of public confidence in the courts that needs tackling urgently.

The study discloses for the first time the scale of public ignorance on this key issue. It says the majority of the public is wrong to believe that recorded crime is rising dramatically; that a large proportion of crime is violent;

and that judges are handing out sentences which are far too lenient.

The BCS study, based on interviews with more than 18,000 people in 1996, shows that the public seriously underestimates just how severe the courts are when it comes to sending people to prison.

It says this ignorance of crime and sentencing is fueling widespread public cynicism about law and order. The problem is compounded by the absence of any easily accessible figures showing the "going rate" for any particular crime.

"Those who were most likely to underestimate the courts' use of imprisonment had lower educational attainment than others, were likely to be older and were more likely to read the tabloid newspapers," says the survey.

"Women were more likely than men to underestimate the proportion of convicted rapists sent to prison, and owner-occupiers more likely than others to underestimate the use of imprisonment for burglary."

The report says that when asked about sentencing in general people tend to think of the worst kind of offenders but when presented with the facts of an actual case tend to be far less punitive.

The study blames the media for such a large public misunderstanding of what goes on in the courts.

"News values mitigate against balanced coverage," it says. "Erratic court sentences make news; sensible ones do not."

"As a result large parts of

the population are exposed to a steady stream of misleading stories about sentencing incompetence."

However, the authors of the survey say part of the solution lies in the hands of the judges and the rest of the criminal justice system.

It says that the public has a very jaundiced view of judges, with more than one-third believing they do a poor job. This compares with much higher levels of confidence in the police, the prison service and magistrates.

The report scathingly concludes that the judges may not be unique in continuing to use 18th-century trappings of pomp and ritual to sustain their authority, but that it is about time they started using late 20th-century communication techniques to let the public know about sentencing practice if they are to combat public cynicism.

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, said he intended that new sentencing guidelines would be published by the Court of Appeal for all the main offences but that everybody had a responsibility to present a more accurate picture about crime, including politicians, judges, lawyers and the media.

He said newspapers and television had an understandable role in highlighting vivid crimes but that the offences were only a small proportion of the total and the Home Office would consult the media and judges over a new public awareness campaign.

"Only when crime and the criminal justice system is presented in the correct context will the public begin to regain confidence in the justice it delivers," he said.

Mr Straw added that he had already proposed that the courts should spell out exactly how long criminals would spend behind bars at the time when they are sentenced.

Crime facts and fiction

Recorded crime has fallen by 8 per cent in recent years. Some 75 per cent of people think it is going up.

Only 6 per cent of crimes are violent or sexual. Most people think violent crime accounts for more than one-third of all crimes.

The British murder rate is going down. There were 681 homicides in 1996 — 10 per cent lower in 1995.

Convicted criminals are increasingly likely to be sent to jail. 79,100 were imprisoned in 1996, compared with 58,400 in 1993.

Serious offenders are jailed. More than 90 per cent of convicted robbers and 97 per cent of rapists go to prison.

Young children are no more likely to be killed by a stranger than they were in the past. Seven children a year have been killed over the past 20 years.

Women are three times less likely than men to be attacked by a stranger.

The elderly are at less risk from violent crime than the young. Those aged under 29 are 13 times more likely to be mugged than a pensioner.

Forty per cent of men in Britain have a criminal record for a non-motoring offence by the time they reach the age of 40.

No bravado, no ugliness, just grief

Eddie Treanor the last terror victim of 1997 was buried in bright winter sunshine as the politicians struggled to keep the peace intact. **John Mullin reports**



Eddie Treanor's sister is supported at his funeral yesterday

HIS big sister managed precisely three steps out of St Theresa's Church in north Belfast before collapsing in a tortured heap of sobs. Her anguish cut through the freezing, still air, leaving mourners aghast and onlookers uncomfortable, embarrassed even.

Some people will remember the name Eddie Treanor. They are unlikely, though, to recall the specifics: that he was 31 years old, a housing executive who loved football and a drink with friends. They will forget that his father, Tommy, was a British soldier, and that he looked

after his elderly widowed mother, Mary. Those who find his name ringing a bell will see him as a number, the 20th and final victim of The Troubles in 1997, and then they will remember that he was the death which put Northern Ireland back on the edge of full-scale war as the new year dawned.

That will evoke another memory, something he never considered important: that he was a Catholic.

As the bishop and priest said their warm words, well practised in this area, political wheels were grind-

ing on across the city. The revolving door at Stormont in east Belfast was spinning quickly as Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, met delegations from eight of the province's parties in an attempt to save the peace process.

That was no consolation yesterday to Eddie's mother, to his four brothers, to his shattered sister, Yvonne. Nor to his girlfriend, Roisin Sheehan, aged 30, who was with him as two masked gunmen seeking to revenge the murder of Billy Wright, the loyalist paramilitary leader, sprayed the Clifton Tavern on

the Catholic Cliftonville Road with bullets.

Locals had nicknamed it The Sitting Duck.

There were maybe 500 mourners, a fraction of those who turned out for the funeral of Wright, who was aged 37. There was no militarism, no bravado, no ugliness in north Belfast. But there was an emotion missing in the air, keenly felt in the red-dened eyes and trembling lower lips of his family and friends.

It was the first funeral of a terrorist victim at St Theresa's for three years. The last victim, John O'Hanlon, had also been chosen for his Catholicism. He was shot as he worked on a car outside his house, two days after the IRA ceasefire was announced, but six weeks before most loyalist terror groups followed suit.

There are few enough words of comfort at such times, but Father Sean Emerson clutched at them as best he could yesterday. He paid a lovely, warm tribute.

"The death of Edmund is a tragic loss to all who knew him. In his family, even though he was the youngest, he was in many ways the mainstay. A natural organiser, he had time for people, turn to page 2, column 1

Leader comment, page 8

What's in a name? Lots if it's Rolls

Michael Bannister, Chief Business Correspondent

TWO of Britain's premier engineering companies are locked in a bitter row over who has the right to use the country's most prestigious brand name — Rolls-Royce.

The dispute between Rolls-Royce aerospace group and Vickers, owners of the Rolls-Royce Bentley luxury car business, centres on who has the final say over any sale of the car business to a foreign buyer.

Rolls-Royce claims that it has this right to veto any sale under a special section of a 1973 agreement which gave Rolls-Royce Motor Cars the right to use the brand name free of charge in perpetuity.

However, Vickers last night insisted that the foreign ownership provisions are no longer valid under European legislation and that it can sell the car business to whoever it likes. It is asking the European Court to declare the provisions null and void so that it can continue with its planned auction of the Rolls-Royce car business.

It has narrowed the bidders down to a shortlist of six, which is thought to include

the big three German car makers, Volkswagen, Daimler-Benz, and BMW.

A spokesman for the Rolls-Royce aerospace group, however, claimed that its legal advice was that the 1973 agreement was still valid. He said the group is demanding a say over who owns the car group so that it can ensure the Rolls-Royce name is not devalued. A new owner would not, for example, be allowed to make a small car and sell it as a Rolls-Royce.

Talks between the two engineering groups have failed to reach agreement on interpretation of the 1973 agreement. Vickers is hoping to raise about \$600 million from the sale of the car firm, believes that any veto would contravene European law on competition and the free flow of capital between member states.

Its chairman, Sir Colin Chandler, said: "We felt it important to clarify the position with regard to the future of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars. There are a number of credible potential purchasers."

Vickers has created today's value in RRMC and we alone will be responsible for determining which of them should be the future owner of the business."

5 facts

- 1 5 News used to be at 8:30, it's now at 7.
- 2 It's the only news programme shot live inside a working newsroom.
- 3 The Royal Television Society awarded 5 News with an attractive perspex trophy.
- 4 Despite his name, Trevor McDonald isn't Scottish. Kirsty Young is.
- 5 5 Facts is also a nightly feature on 5 News.



Channel 5
News.
Now at 7pm.

Inside

Britain

World News

Analysis

Sport

Crossword 16

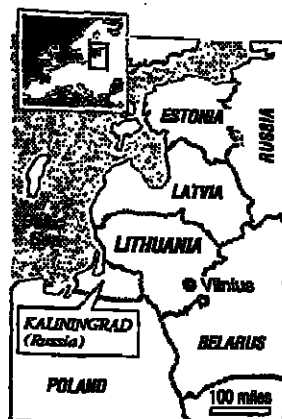
Comment & Obituaries 10

Quick Crossword 18

Radio, TV & Weather 16



Victory in Vilnius



Fact file

□ Lithuanian is the oldest living language spoken between Europe and India.

□ The capital, Vilnius, is home to the Twinn O'Brien, which the city claims is the "premier Irish pub in eastern Europe". It serves Irish stew, shepherd's pie and Guinness but has no other connection with the Emerald Isle.

□ Lithuania declared its independence from Russia in 1991.

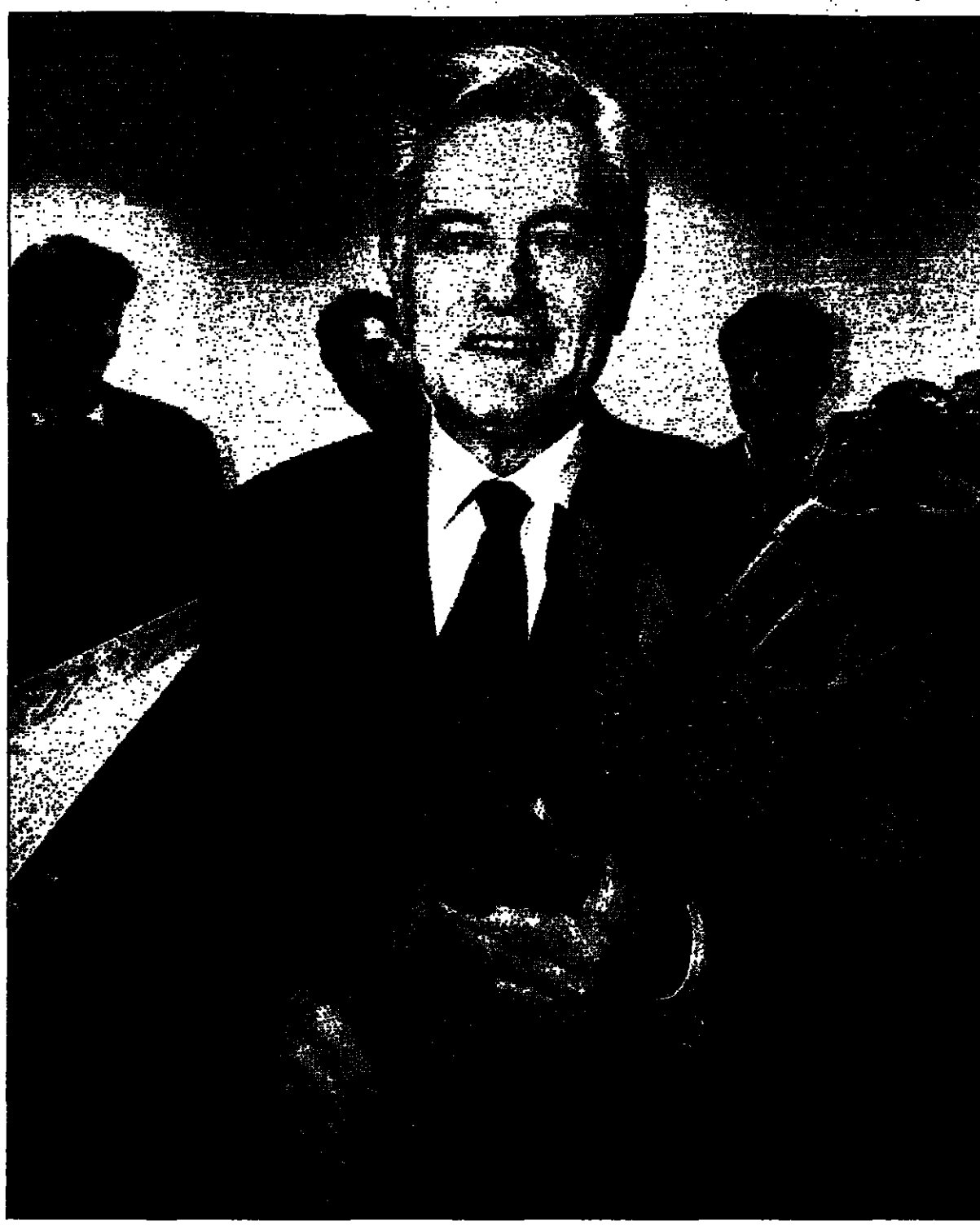
□ A Jurassic Age fly, caught in amber, costs £10 in Neringa, home of ancient dunes on the edge of the Baltic.

□ A revolt against tsarist rule in 1863 was put down, forcing thousands of Lithuanians to emigrate, many to North America where they now make up 0.3 per cent of the population.

□ Vilnius was known as the Jerusalem of Lithuania in the late 19th century. The thriving Jewish culture and people were wiped out by the Nazis.

□ Lithuania remained true to Pagan beliefs nearly 400 years after the rest of Europe converted, only turning to Christianity in 1386.

□ The average wage is £300 a month.



The newly elected Valdas Adamkus, who holds dual US-Lithuanian citizenship

PHOTOGRAPH: MINDAUGAS KULSIS

American retires to run Lithuania

Baltic state elects former Illinois civil servant as its new president

James Meek in Moscow

WHEN he was pensioned off from a middle-ranking American civil service post in June, Valdas Adamkus, aged 71, told colleagues in Chicago he would like to concentrate on golf. But he did say he might be too busy.

Yesterday it became clear what he meant: Mr Adamkus was elected president of Lithuania, an ex-Soviet Baltic republic of 3.7 million people with a good chance of joining the European Union and Nato early in the next century.

On the way to victory, he liked to see the electorate by pointing out that, as head of a regional environmental protection agency in the United States, he had controlled a budget larger than Lithuania's.

Mr Adamkus, who has dual US-Lithuanian citizenship, beat run-off rival Arturas Paulauskas by just 1/4 per cent. Although the loser called for a recount, there was little doubt the result would stand.

Washington does not bar its bureaucrats from dabbling in foreign politics during their holidays, and Mr Adamkus has been an active player in Lithuanian election campaigns since 1993.

Lithuanian political commentator Arturas Racas said the victor had used his role as a US government envoy promoting environmentalism in the Baltic states to keep in touch with his future campaign allies.

Mr Racas said it was surprising Mr Adamkus had been allowed to run at all. The constitutional court had to convene to rule on the awkward fact that the constitutional bars candidates who

have not lived in Lithuania for at least three years and who have sworn allegiance to another state.

Mr Adamkus was born in Lithuania but fled the Soviet occupation in 1944 and emigrated to the States in 1949 after a spell in Germany. He served in the US army and worked in the American Midwest as an environmental official for almost 30 years. He still does not own a house in Lithuania.

"That doesn't matter now because he'll have the presidential residence," said Mr Racas.

The Adamkus campaign drew on the positive image of the US in Lithuania, where people see it as the material and moral opposite of their disliked former Soviet masters, and a source of resistance to Moscow's rule before independence.

In Illinois, Mr Adamkus's adopted state, is the centre of the 800,000-strong Lithuanian diaspora in the US. His wife, Alma, is also a Lithuanian-American.

On the campaign trail, the new president played up the notion that as a salaried American civil servant he was untainted by the corruption, sleaze or incompetence of previous Lithuanian administrations.

His election ends an era during which Lithuanian politics was dominated by fear and bad memories of Russia.

The one-time nationalist hero Vytautas Landsbergis was humiliated in the first round of voting, and Lithuania's president for the past four years, ex-communist Algirdas Brazauskas, did not run again.

Lithuania has the smallest Russian minority of the three Baltic states. Most ethnic Russians have Lithuanian citizenship, unlike their kin in Latvia and Estonia, so Vilnius has had the least difficulty making friends with Moscow.

Mr Brazauskas leaves a solid legacy of good relations with Russia — Lithuania borders the Russian enclave of

Kaliningrad — although the election of a more nationalist Russian leader to succeed Boris Yeltsin could spell trouble if an invitation for Lithuania to join Nato drops on the mat in a few years.

Mr Adamkus, who as president has responsibility for foreign policy, said yesterday that Lithuania would not join Nato before 2005 and conceded that the alliance was not eager to recruit them.

He is likely to concentrate on setting Lithuania on a path to join the EU, although he may find his US government background no help in dealing with powerful member states such as France.

The new president, recipient of a clutch of American environmental awards and a leading figure in the clean-up of the Great Lakes, confronts a sticky environmental problem in his new patrimony — Soviet-built nuclear power station, of the same design as the one at Chernobyl, which provides half the country's electricity.

Hard core in England defy 'none for road' message

Fewer Scots drink-drivers

Student's ANIMUS

SCOTTISH police force yesterday claimed success in its blitz on Christmas drink-driving as early figures elsewhere showed an increase in the number of motorists caught driving while over the limit.

While several English forces voiced their disappointment that a hard core of motorists defied the "none for the road" safety message, Strathclyde police revealed they had made only 448 arrests, despite testing more than 160,000 drivers.

During its Christmas campaign, which ended yesterday, Strathclyde was criticised for focusing too many resources on drink-driving.

The force, which covers a population of about 2.3 million people, created a flying squad dedicated solely to stopping spot checks across an area stretching from Ayrshire to Argyll.

Last year, 421 drivers tested positive, but this year's campaign succeeded in reducing the already low drink-driving rate from 0.4 per cent to 0.28 per cent.

Chief Superintendent Jim Gilmore, the force's head of traffic, said yesterday: "I am

pleased with the overall results of the campaign. It was disappointing that the number of drivers testing positive has increased but this must be seen in the context with high-profile police activity in Strathclyde resulting in a 50 per cent increase in the number of breath tests."

The encouraging results were mirrored across Scotland, where final figures showed the number of drivers failing breath tests dropped to barely one in every 200 tested. Just over 1,000 of the almost 200,000 drivers tested during the massive campaign were over the limit — reducing the Scottish average from 0.6 per cent to 0.5 per cent.

Dumfries and Galloway found the fewest drink-drivers, with only 27 testing positive out of a total of 1,810. But at 2 per cent, that was still above the overall Scottish failure rate.

Scottish police said they backed moves to lower the legal limit from 80mg to 50mg per 100ml of blood, an option being considered by the Government in a consultation paper to be issued shortly.

William Spence, spokesman for the Scottish police chiefs' body Aspos, told BBC Radio Scotland: "There are still 1,100 people who chose not to heed the warnings, who chose

not to obey the legislation — and that's disturbing. "We think the time is now right, in the light of the Government's consultation, to reduce the limit to 50mg."

In England, several forces reported increases in the number of positive tests. One of the worst areas was Wiltshire, where police said 20 per cent of 138 breath tests done after accidents were positive.

Sergeant Cavan Moroney, the force's accident prevention officer, said he was "bitterly disappointed". "Even one drink will have an effect on a driver's ability to judge speed and distance accurately — the only safe course is not to drink and drive."

The number of arrests also rose slightly in Essex where 342 of the 11,448 people were positive — an average of 3 per cent compared to less than 2.5 per cent last year.

North Yorkshire police, which carried out 271 tests, found 15 drivers over the limit, while in Staffordshire, 70 of 1,416 tests were positive.

"There are still a hard core of drivers out on the roads who seem to have no regard for the consequences of this anti-social behaviour," said Inspector Les Dwyll of Staffordshire police.

Analysis, page 11

Death crash driver jailed

Businessman was so drunk he did not even notice accident

Rory Carroll

A STRESSED businessman got so drunk on wine, lager and whisky that he failed to realise he had killed a motorcyclist driving to the pub with his BMW's air bag inflated.

Police followed a six-mile trail of shredded tyre and brake fluid along the A4143 to the Cock Horse pub at Rowington, Warwickshire, where they found Peter Moorman, aged 54, sipping a pint of beer.

Moorman, three and a half times over the drink drive limit, was unaware he had killed Clive Burnett and dragged the father-of-two's dead body under his car.

One witness described the moving vehicle as like watching a Salsiccia car: it was only the curb that kept it on the road.

The police interview was delayed for 24 hours to give Moorman time to sober up. In the back of his boot were two empty bottles of wine, 14 empty cans of lager and a half-empty bottle of whisky.



Peter Moorman: 'one of nature's gentlemen'

Moorman, a married father of five, was yesterday jailed at Warwick Crown Court for four and a half years and banned for six years for causing death by dangerous driving. Makhan Shoker, prosecuting, said Moorman, a self-employed insurance broker and manager of his own property management company, was "very nearly blind drunk" at the time of the accident last April.

Minutes before the collision he had been forced to stop by a van driver concerned at the way he was weaving from lane to lane. Moorman agreed

to take a rest but resumed driving and struck Mr Burnett, aged 28, a motorcycle courier, at Pipehays, Birmingham, killing him instantly.

Sparks flew from the bare rim of one wheel until Moorman parked at the pub and waited inside the car for the bar to open. He later told police he thought the damage to his car had been caused by hitting a curb or a brick on the road.

Morris Cooper, defending, said Moorman was devastated by the consequences of his actions and described his client as "one of nature's gentlemen". Moorman's business interests were in financial trouble at the time of the offence and stress-related depression had combined with the alcohol to leave the defendant in a detached state of mind, Mr Cooper claimed. "He made the fatal irrational decision to go out in his car and give himself a break from the pressures of the office," Mr Cooper said.

Arising Chief Inspector Graham Sutherland said: "In the 28 years I have been in the job it is the worst case I have ever come across."

Wendy Burnett, the mother of the dead motorcyclist, said: "Clive was a loving son, a wonderful dad and simply a great person. He didn't deserve to die."

No militarism, no bravado, no ugliness

'There is so much at stake. Lives are at stake, and every life is precious. Every single life is precious'

continued from page 1 coupled with a generosity and a willingness to share and give.

"Edmund had a great sense of humour and was widely respected and accepted as a decent man."

"Most of all, the loss is greatest to his mother, especially at in the years since his father's death, Edmund had taken special care of her, doing small things, without fuss, but simply with care and love."

"The pain which those who loved Edmund feel today is very intense. It is wrong that Edmund was murdered and wrong that his family must suffer in this way, because of the evil acts of others," he said.

The Bishop of Down and Connor, Patrick Walsh, began in similar vein. But then he delivered a message to the politicians, hard-hitting in the circumstances: stop squabbling, get together, and start dealing.

"You must give us positive signs of renewed vigorous effort. Let there be an end of talking at one another, let us see you talking with one another, working together, struggling together."

"We know that it is not easy, but do not despise us with any further petty shows of rancour, bitterness, ill-temper."

"There is so much at stake. Lives are at stake, and every life is precious. Every single life is precious."

They were getting down to that task in Dr Mowlam's office yesterday. She will also meet Sinn Féin and the Ulster Unionists this morning. Her aim is to find a way to persuade the loyalist fringe parties to remain at the talks, which will resume on Monday.

The mood was grim. Gary McMichael, leader of the Ulster Democratic Party, emerged to say the peace process was hanging by a thread. His party wants to stay in the talks, but the Ulster Defence Association and Ulster Freedom Fighters' prisoners whom it speaks for withdrew their backing for the negotiations on Sunday.

The Progressive Unionist Party, linked to the Ulster Volunteer Force, is split on whether to continue its participation at Stormont. It will meet the Irish government tomorrow and then make a decision.

There was a glimmer of hope across the Irish Sea in Downing Street. David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, met Tony Blair. Both sides called the talks constructive. Mr Trimble will go to the Maze today to gauge the mood of loyalist prisoners.

They buried Eddie Treanor in bright sunshine at Carnmoney Cemetery. His family begged for no retaliation, no more misery. It was the first funeral of a terrorist victim in 1998, and they prayed it would be the last.

War hero proves potent blast from the past

Review

Garth Cartwright

Edwin Starr
Jazz Cafe, London

WAR! What is it good for? Absolutely nothing! Say it again! And if you are Edwin Starr, again and again and again. Starr stomps his foot furiously as he grunts and shrieks his strident anthem while the Jazz Cafe bellows itself hoarse shouting alongside him. Playing the song out for all its

drama, his 10-piece band push forward then break, the tension visibly rising. You could, although no one mentions it, imagine that we were all shouting to save Northern Ireland.

And perhaps we were. A song as powerful as War never loses its resonance and although the audience were out for a funky good time, there was something electric in the air when Starr left the stage. Released in 1969, Starr's single hit the airwaves while the Vietnam War was at its height. Topping pop charts in the United States and Europe, it became the street chant of the anti-war movement. Starr

never had another hit of such significance, but the song has remained a rallying cry whenever people gather to protest for peace.

Yet War's resonance does not even begin to explain why Starr can still pack punters in. The fact being that Edwin Starr is much more than a one-hit wonder. Throughout the sixties, he had a string of inspired hit singles on both sides of the Atlantic. This — combined with a devotion to touring Europe (especially Britain, where Northern Soul fans strained to touch the hem of his garment) — led to Starr moving to Warwickshire in the mid-1960s.

From Motown to the Midlands is something of a leap. Yet Starr is a soul survivor and finds Britain batters his bread a lot more generously than the US these days. Born Charles Edwin Hatcher, Starr found success with his first single, the James Bond-inspired strut Agent Double-O Soul, in 1966.

At the Jazz Cafe, a loyal following cheered Starr on as he sweated and sang his heart out. His pre-War hits were greeted gleefully and as his formidable band laid down mighty Motown rhythms, the dance floor heaved. At 55, Starr remains an energetic performer. He still sings as if

gargling gravel and slips easily into lost soul moves. Do the Monkey? Do the Craw? Edwin does.

It is almost two decades since Starr had his last hit, but he performs his classics as if they were firing up the charts. SOS (Stop Her On Sight) and 25 Miles actually sounded better than anything currently in the Top Ten.

Now the proud owner of a recording studio and a Rolle-Royce, Starr has succeeded while many of his more famous Motown contemporaries have stumbled. As he tore into War, he proved that a blast from the past can be undeniably potent.

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News in brief

Coach driver fined over death crash

A BRITISH coach driver whose vehicle plunged 70ft off a mountain road in the French Alps killing three schoolchildren was yesterday found guilty of manslaughter and fined £1,200. Jim Shaw, aged 43, of Droylsden, Greater Manchester, was taking pupils from St James's Church of England school, Bolton, for a day's climbing during a school activity holiday at the time of the accident last July.

The sentence in a French court was welcomed by the victims' families and by school headteacher David Bowes, who said it was planned to commemorate Keith Ridding, 14, Nicola Moore, 16, and Robert Boardman, 14, with a memorial garden or stained glass window at the school, he added. Father-of-two Shaw was devastated by the crash, which injured 19 other people, six of them seriously. He has felt unable to drive a coach since it happened. The school announced shortly after the tragedy that it considered him blameless.

Good winter for hospitals

HOSPITALS are on course to escape the feared winter crisis in the health service because of low levels of flu and mild, if wet and windy, weather. Few problems were reported over Christmas and the NHS has entered the first fortnight of January — the critical period in previous years — with a forecast of abnormally warm temperatures by next weekend.

Although health managers warn that there is still a long way to go, the combination of a cold snap and high levels of flu which brought the service almost to its knees this time last year shows no sign of materialising. Hospitals are said to be better prepared than ever to withstand winter pressures. Contingency plans are in place and the Government has provided an extra £200 million for special measures. — David Brindle

Wife shot on golf course

A JEALOUS husband who hid in bushes and shot his estranged wife as she played golf yesterday jailed for eight years. Godfrey Stuart Jarrett, 58, admitted attempting to murder his wife Julia in "a moment of madness" after she said she was divorcing him, Stafford Crown Court heard.

The court was told Jarrett, a former corn merchant, of Whitchurch, Shropshire, lay in wait with a double-barrelled shotgun. Mrs Jarrett was in the 17th hole at Market Drayton with two friends last March. She was wounded in the face, neck, chest and leg, suffered post-traumatic stress, and still had hundreds of pellets in her body, the court heard.

Most-delayed airline

CALEDONIAN Airways, which experienced major aircraft maintenance problems in 1997, was the worst airline for delays last summer, the Consumers' Association said yesterday. Caledonian had average delays of more than 1 hour 30 minutes on flights to Athens, Rhodes, Majorca and Dalaman in Turkey, according to the CA's Holiday Which? magazine. Other poor performers last summer were Airworld Aviation, Sabre Airways and Leisure International, while the airlines with the fewest delays were Flying Colours, British Airways and Monarch Airlines.

"Overall, flight delays are getting worse, but these figures show that they are only a problem for some airlines," said Holiday Which? news editor Roger Lakin.

New move in murder hunt

POLICE hunting the killer of a 14-year-old schoolgirl are to fingerprint thousands of men and women in the area where she lived. Kate Bushell's throat was cut in a field near her home in Exeter while she was walking a neighbour's dog in the Exwick Lane area in November. Marks were found on a black bin liner recovered from the murder scene early in the inquiry, police said yesterday.

Some people in the area gave fingerprints during the 1,000-plus house-to-house inquiries carried out by the Exeter and Devon police. More than 1,000 DNA samples had now been taken from men in the area, and results were awaited, said police.

Pre-fabs are listed

SIXTEEN pre-fabricated houses in Moseley, Birmingham, have become the first of their kind to be officially listed by the Government for their architectural and historic interest. The single-storey homes with two bedrooms, fitted kitchens and separate bathrooms and toilets were built in 1945 and have had little alteration since being assembled as supposedly temporary homes on concrete foundations.

Fewer than 2,500 of the rare Phoenix type were built, although in all 158,000 pre-fabs were constructed between 1944 and 1948, when timber and bricks were in short supply. English Heritage says the houses, which have been given a Grade II listing, are still in good condition. — James Melk

Coastguards warn surfers to stay away from stormy seafront

Geoffrey Gibbs and Stuart Miller

COASTGUARDS and surfing organisations yesterday in a condemned water sport when circuit television cameras monitoring Chesil Beach, west of Weymouth, Dorset, picked out families with young children seemingly oblivious to the danger as they tried to dodge the breaking waves.

"The conditions were terrible and we were changing so quickly that they could have been potentially fatal, no matter how skilled these people thought they were," said a spokeswoman for Portland Coastguard.

Surfing organisations said the search for thrills had to be balanced by the need for common sense.

Chris Hines, of the Cornwall-based pressure group Surfers Against Sewage, said: "Surfers do surf in dangerous conditions and people will always rise to a challenge. But the key thing is not to put yourself in danger and more importantly not put others at risk."

New warnings of flooding and dangerous driving conditions were issued across England and Wales as workers returned after the seasonal break.

Forecasters predicted that the worst of the wind was over, but rain, sleet and thunderstorms spread across much of southern Britain.

The woman, aged 42, was flown to hospital with fractured ribs, a bruised lung and facial injuries. The man, 56, was trapped for two hours but was not badly hurt.

Environment Agency staff that the search for thrills had to be balanced by the need for common sense.

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'Children from some ethnic minorities will find themselves concentrated in certain categories of school'

Schools face 'apartheid'

Education: racism

John Carroll
Education Editor

BRITAIN'S leading anti-racist campaigner last night accused the Government of fostering "educational apartheid" by favouring high status schools and failing to target resources towards the disadvantaged.

Sir Herman Ouseley, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, said ministers were courting social and

economic disaster by promoting higher standards of education for sections of the community which were already reasonably successful, leaving "difficult" pupils even further behind.

In the fiercest attack on Tony Blair's education priorities since the election, he challenged the decision to allow grant-maintained schools to continue to enjoy a special status, albeit under the new name of "foundation" schools.

"There is a contradiction between expecting a national curriculum to deliver equally for all children and the creation of an education system in which there is a hierarchy of schools," he told the North of England education confer-

ence in Bradford. Sir Herman warned that the education bill now before Parliament would establish "a fractured education system, concentrating resources in high status schools, and concentrating pupils with greatest needs in schools of low status and low resources that will become seen as 'sink' schools."

"Within that scenario I have no doubt that children from some ethnic minorities will find themselves concentrated in certain categories of school and we will have a system of educational apartheid, divided on grounds of race, class and inadequately measured performance and ability."

Nothing was more likely to undermine the Government's

declared goal of a united society.

If the proposed tripartite system of local authority, church and foundation schools could not deliver fairly, it should be scrapped.

Sir Herman, former chief education officer of the Inner London Education Authority, was delivering the presidential address at the annual conference which brings together the leading experts and administrators from schools, colleges, universities, local authorities and Government.

Sir Herman said racial prejudice at teacher training colleges might be responsible for lack of black role models in schools.

In 1996, 39 of the 85 colleges accepted no black Caribbean

candidates for teacher training. "One reason is undoubtedly racial discrimination". There would continue to be a shortage of black teachers unless colleges stopped denying entry to qualified applicants who wanted to get into the system.

"The Teacher Training Agency should withdraw funding from colleges that did not implement equal opportunities policies," he said.

He said many white working class boys were suffering from the educational disadvantage which still affected too many black pupils.

Ministers thought they could introduce a single set of policies to raise standards in all schools.

But teachers would be

tempted to meet their targets by excluding difficult pupils, exacerbating problems of disadvantage.

Sir Herman blamed the under-performance of Afro-Caribbean boys on racial stereotyping by their teachers and on schools' inability to recognise or deal with racial harassment.

Afro-Caribbean boys six times as likely as white classmates to be excluded from school.

This ethnic imbalance required immediate government action, with targets set for improvement. "If these characteristics were to be ascribed ... to the left-handed children of suburban bank managers, there would be a national uproar."

Problems that arise when boys will be lads

Education: gender

Vivek Chaudhary
Education Correspondent

NEW laddism — or just an old-fashioned problem of boys behaving badly? As the Government and educationists contemplate the latest figures suggesting that under-achieving boys at school is more serious now than ever before, many believe that the root of the problem lies as much within the education system as in the changing nature of society.

Stephen Byers, the schools standards minister, yesterday announced the need for more male teachers to provide boys with role models and combat the "laddish" attitude that has led to boys trailing behind girls at every stage of education.

Just over a decade ago it was girls who were under-achieving, with fewer going to university or into the professions despite the fact that they did better in exams.

Greg Brookes, of the National Foundation for Educational Research, who has examined gender differences in education, said: "Girls have always done better but that gap is more marked now than ever before."

"Boys tended to catch up in secondary schools, but increasingly over the last 10 to 15 years the girls have been staying ahead and the boys have not been catching up at the later stages."

According to latest figures released by the Government, girls now out-perform boys at getting five good GCSE grades. They also out-perform boys in national curriculum tests at seven, 11 and 14.

For many, however, it is a combination of factors, ranging from the changing nature of the workplace to the revised education system, that has led to the decline of boys' performance at school.

Dr Brookes said: "We found that by the time many boys get to secondary school, they had limited prospects and ambitions. This is probably due to the closing down of unskilled manual work and the increase in jobs in the service industry, which favours women."

Dr Brookes also agreed with the Government on the need for more male teachers, particularly in primary schools. "A lot of boys only see their mothers reading at home and female teachers reading in the classroom. Reading is seen as a female pursuit, and not a masculine one."

Researchers have found that the GCSE examination system, which relies heavily on course work, also favours girls rather than boys.

Alan Smithers, director of the Centre for Education and Employment Research, based at Brunel University, said: "Girls are more conscientious and better able to prepare for course work. Boys have been



Daniel Farrell: 'If you're too clever then a lot of people don't like you' PHOTOGRAPH BY GUYAN TURNER



John Illingworth... headmaster concerned at emergence of anti-education sub-culture

found to be better at exams and multiple choice questions."

Prof Smithers believes that the key to improving the educational performance of

boys lies in the nursery. "There is too much emphasis on getting children to read at an early age. Girls are able to deal with it better."

"In Switzerland and the

Scandinavian countries, there are less gender differences in education. The whole class is taken forward."

He added: "The emphasis in Britain is on individual differ-

Pupils: 'Not all girls are clever. Most of the girls smoke and lots of them bunk off as well. Quite a lot do it but girls are the worst'

THERE are, says Daniel Farrell, three categories of pupils who might incur the wrath of their classmates at the school he attends in north London: swots, those who sound posh, and swots.

"If you're too clever then a lot of people don't like you because they think you're teacher's pet. Other kids will start teasing you in the playground but it's not just those who are too clever who might get stuck. It's anyone who stands out, someone who is fat or a geek," said Daniel, aged 13.

A pupil at the St Thomas Moore school, a mixed comprehensive in Wood Green, north London, Daniel admits that being too clever can be a bit of a hindrance rather than an advantage at his school.

He said: "I get a bit of stick myself because I really like English. Sometimes I don't bother answering or asking questions in class because I worry that my friends will take the mockery out of me for being teacher's pet."

An intelligent boy who

enjoys academic lessons as well as sport, Daniel claims that peer group pressure has led some of his friends to ignore their studies and misbehave in school.

"A lot of kids in school smoke because of their friends and other kids I know don't bother with lessons because of their mates. Some children misbehave because they don't want to be seen to be too clever."

Daniel would like to go to university.

He has not decided what job he wants, but is convinced that a good education is important.

"Education is a bit channelled towards just doing exams and I would like to learn a bit more."

Daniel is dismissive of claims by education specialists who claim that girls do much better at school than boys. "Not all girls are clever. In my school most of the girls smoke and lots of them bunk off as well. Quite a lot of the pupils do it but the girls are the worst."

Vivek Chaudhary

Teacher: 'A lot of alienation is down to peer pressure on boys not to be seen as swots. It has a tremendous impact'

FOR almost 20 years of his teaching career John Illingworth was a rare commodity: a male teacher working in a primary school.

Now headmaster at the Brookhill Leys junior school in Eastwood, near Nottingham, Mr Illingworth claims that while he has witnessed increased alienation among young boys towards education there has been no increase in the number of male teachers working in primary and junior schools.

There are only two male teachers among the staff of nine, but claims Mr Illingworth, aged 46, his main concern is the reluctance of boys in his school to study.

"A lot of it is down to peer pressure being put on boys not to be seen as swots. It has a tremendous impact. A worrying subculture has emerged that is almost anti-education."

Mr Illingworth, who began teaching in 1973, claims that the attitude of boys towards studying and wanting to succeed via education has deteriorated over the years.

He maintains that the

reasons for underachievement among boys John Illingworth, within society, not simply in the lack of male teachers. While almost 88 per cent of primary and junior school teachers are women the majority of headmasters for such schools are men.

"There have always been more women teachers than men in primary schools, even when boys were doing much better. The problem facing boys is much wider and more complex than that."

The school is in a former mining town suffering from high unemployment, and Mr Illingworth claims that this, plus a lack of positive role models for boys, are crucial factors which go some way to explain why boys under-achieve. The other reason was that lessons were just too boring for restless boys.

There is a total lack of attention in the national curriculum. Class sizes are also much bigger, which makes discipline harder to enforce, and we are working in a deprived area."

Vivek Chaudhary

Stalker's plea saves victim from further ordeal

Stuart Miller

A STALKER yesterday admitted terrorising a woman described as a "woman of letters" after five months of his original conviction was quashed by the Court of Appeal.

Clarence Morris's unexpected decision to admit causing psychological harm to Perry Southall, a 41-year-old dental nurse from east London, came as she stood herself for another ordeal in the witness box.

At a hearing last November, Morris, aged 28, denied forcing Miss Southall to en-

dure 200 incidents of harassment over an eight-month period. But after legal discussion between counsel and Judge Peter Fringet yesterday, Morris pleaded guilty when the charge was put to him again.

Morris, who was jailed for a total of five years after being convicted in September 1996, will be sentenced next month to allow time for pre-sentence and psychological reports to be prepared.

The original trial judge, Gerald Butler QC, said at the time that he was forced to impose a prison sentence rather than sending Morris indefinitely to Rampton because psychiatricists differed over his mental state.

Two psychiatrists agreed he was suffering from paranoid schizophrenia and a psychopathic personality disorder, and concluded that he was highly dangerous, particularly to women. But a third maintained that while he found evidence of the personality disorder, there was nothing to lead him to conclude that he was mentally ill.

Morris's appeal last August was based not on his own psychiatric state, but on the grounds that the judge should have granted an adjournment so that expert psychiatric evidence could be called on medical problems Miss Southall said she had suffered as a result of her ordeal.

Miss Southall told the court

that Morris's behaviour had left her terrified. Her fear was so intense that she developed pains in her joints and abdomen and began to suffer sleeplessness. She became irritable and short-tempered.

Morris had followed her almost every day between October 1995 and May 1996. On two occasions, he threatened her with a wallpaper scraper. Once he approached her wearing a pair of Y-fronts over his trousers, blowing a whistle, and brandishing the scraper as he screamed his love for her.

He sent her bottles of champagne, threw items of women's underwear into the dental practice where she worked, and sent her 35 let-

ters claiming he loved her. The jury took less than two hours to decide that Morris, a six-footer who has spent 15 years in prison, had psychologically scarred her to an extent that was the equivalent of a physical injury.

But, quashing his conviction, three appeal judges ruled that the case should not have been allowed to go before the jury without expert evidence to support the prosecution's contention that Miss Southall suffered injury as a result of Morris's behaviour.

After yesterday's hearing, Morris's barrister, Henry Kogan, explained why his client had decided to change his plea.

"He has now pleaded guilty

on the basis that the evidence that was lacking originally has been provided."

"The appeal was won on the basis that there was no psychiatric evidence on the first trial to prove the element of psychological harm, but that has now been obtained after the successful appeal, and on that basis he has pleaded guilty."

Morris's original conviction was almost overshadowed by a row over remarks by his then barrister, David Stanton. He provoked outrage when he in effect accused Miss Southall of provoking his client by her appearance, and likened her to a "queen bee that dresses to kill".

سكنا من الاجل



Adam Alexander outside his cottage, from which he removed rendering after finding (below) original stonework was intact underneath

Period stone cottage must have sixties pebble-dash say planners

Emily Sheffield on village protest over decision branded 'a complete joke'

ADAM Alexander's early 19th century stone cottage fell victim to pebble-dash mania 50 years ago, and ever since has been a concrete outcast in the picturesque Gloucestershire village of St Briavels.

So when Mr Alexander, aged 47, and his wife, Julia, discovered last year that the original stonework was still intact, they thought they would be doing the vil-



lagers a favour by removing the ugly rendering.

The father of two spent months painstakingly chipping away until the listed Victorian country cottage had regained its period beauty and once again blended in with the 11th century hunting lodge opposite.

Mr Alexander did not imagine that Forest of Dean district council would mind as it matched the porch and garage he had added, which the council had told him had to be in original stone rather than cladding.

But he imagined wrong. Despite Heritage ministers having battled against pebble-dash fronts and councils being given extra powers to stop DIY enthusiasts modernising period homes, the council has ordered him to replace the unsightly rendering or face prosecution.

Yesterday, Mr Alexander, a television documentary producer, branded the order "a complete joke" — and more than 200 villagers have signed a petition agreeing with him.

"It is total madness," he said. "My neighbours who signed the petition think the planning department is run by idiots — and you have to wonder whether they're right."

Under law relating to listed buildings, the four-bedroom £140,000 cottage has to be kept in the same condition as when it was listed in the 1980s — including the pebble-dash coating.

English Heritage, invited to see the building, agreed that the rendering looked horrible but said the stone should be lime-washed instead as this would be more authentic.

But a bewildered Mr Alexander asked: "What is wrong with the stone? There are no other lime-washed buildings in the village. I think it raises lots of questions about planning inconsistencies and how they affect local communities."

His planning application to keep the render off will be considered next month.

Hotline overheats in rush to book for Diana's grave

Luise Harding

THENS of thousands of people trying to book tickets to visit the grave of Diana, Princess of Wales, were frustrated yesterday after a telephone hotline failed to keep up with the demand.

Up to 10,000 people a minute tried to ring the line as soon as it was launched at 9am, but by the end of the day telephone operators had managed to sell only 10,000 tickets.

Organisers seem to have badly underestimated the demand for tickets to Althorp Park, near Northampton, where Diana is buried on an island in a lake. More than 200 lines had been installed, but most callers found the line continually engaged.

A spokeswoman for the Althorp estate, owned by Earl Spencer, Diana's brother, last night defended the way the booking system had worked, but hoped it would become more efficient as operators gained experience.

Even before the line opened more than 2,000 people had tried to call it. Within an hour a BT message was advising callers to try later.

BT confirmed that up to 10,000 calls per minute had been attempted at peak times, with demand high all day.

There seems little doubt that all 152,000 tickets would have been sold within a few hours if more operators had been recruited.

A further wave of applications is expected from overseas visitors today after Althorp set up a website on the Internet.

The unprecedented rush suggests a flourishing black market in Diana tickets over the next week. All tickets will have the name of the visitor in an effort to stop profiteering.

At peak times over 10,000 a minute were trying to reserve tickets

ing, though its effectiveness remains in doubt.

"It has been an overwhelming day," a spokeswoman for Earl Spencer said. "Obviously a lot of people want to see the grave."

The Spencer estate will be open to visitors from July 1, the princess's birthday, until August 1, the day before the anniversary of her death. Earl Spencer has restricted ticket numbers to 2,500 a day to maintain the "dignity" of Althorp Park.

Those who wish to pay their respects will not be able to do so cheaply: tickets will cost £3.50 for adults, £7 for pensioners and £5 for children — more than for Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London.

All profits will go to the Diana, Princess of Wales memorial fund. A sizeable chunk of admission fees will be spent redeveloping the estate for visitors.

Earl Spencer announced in October that he would open Althorp to the public following the wave of grief over her death.

Visitors will not have access to the island, but will have a clear view of a memorial erected on it.

A "temple" at the lake's edge which was brought from the gardens of Admiralty House to Althorp is being restored and dedicated to Diana's memory for the public to lay flowers and pay tribute.

Work is under way to convert the 1730s stable block in the grounds into a museum celebrating Diana's life. The exhibition will include family photographs and cine footage from her childhood.

The 24-hour ticket number is 0800 552222. Information also on the Althorp website at <http://www.althorp.house.co.uk>

Althorp designer, G2, page 7

Noel's party will resume

BBC's flagship show to return after reports of budget rows

Owen Bowcott

THE BBC's entertainment flagship, Noel's House Party, which disappeared from its live Saturday slot amid reports of a row over budgets, will return this weekend, the corporation announced last night.

A joint statement from Paul Jackson, BBC head of entertainment, and the long-running presenter, Noel Edmonds, hinted at production problems but managed to preserve a united front.

Last Saturday's early evening show was replaced by a repeat of the Best of Noel's House Party after BBC management said the live show

had been withdrawn "due to unforeseen circumstances".

The hiatus appears to reflect a squeeze on production costs. Every BBC department is supposed to produce 10 per cent savings year on year to help fund the corporation's conversion to digital broadcasting.

Both the BBC and Mr Edmonds's spokesman declined to comment on reports that Mr Edmonds walked out as a result of a row about budgets and programme quality.

The series will restart this Saturday with a live "special edition of Noel's Greatest Goshes". Its normal run will resume on January 17.

"We are looking at a positive way forward to refresh Noel's House Party," Mr

Jackson said. "We are halfway through an exhausting 22 week run of extremely complex live shows. It was important for us all to step back and look at our plans for the remaining shows to ensure that we can offer viewers programmes that will surprise, delight and entertain them in the future, just as we have done in the past."

He added: "Noel Edmonds is a major talent and his long relationship with the BBC will continue."

Mr Edmonds said: "House Party has been an incredible success story for the last seven years. We have a great team and I love hosting it every Saturday night."

"I have every confidence that the BBC will continue to provide the support and commitment to guarantee its acknowledged position as Britain's top family show."

Europhile Patten backs Hague despite single currency fears

Michael White Political Editor

CHRIS Patten yesterday affirmed his loyalty to William Hague as former colleagues gave vent to anger over the latest evidence that pro-European Tories are prepared to back Tony Blair over the single currency.

Mr Patten was one of 12 grandees on the left of the party who signed a letter to the fiercely pro-European Independent demurring the fact that in 25 years of British EU membership — a milestone passed last week — "too often, Europe has been seen not as an opportunity but as a threat". Mr Hague's 10-year No to the euro is a classic ex-

ample of that attitude, Lord Howe later made plain.

Such views from such figures as the former prime minister, Sir Edward Heath, Michael Heseltine, Lord Howe, Sir Leon Brittan and John Gummer are hardly new. But Mr Patten is the only one of the 12 — apart from Kenneth Clarke — with a serious hope of again being a major player in British politics.

After writing his book about his five years as the last governor of Hong Kong Mr Patten is casting around for a place in public life and last week hinted that he might run for mayor of London if the job was "right".

Mr Patten played down the significance of his gesture which, his authors suggest, is intended to boost the sagging morale of the Tory left and draw a line in the sand on Europe. "It is not meant to relaunch the former Tory chairman into Westminster."

"The letter contains eminently moderate and sensible advice for the party. I am sure that William Hague, who is a highly intelligent and effective leader, sees that it is important for a party to use both wings," Mr Patten told reporters as Tony Blair's sceptics like Norman Lamont told the 12 to shut up.

In its crucial passages, the Independent Letter, which both Labour and the Lib Dems said largely reflects their own policies, declared:

"We have failed to grasp fully the chance for Britain to play a truly leading role in Europe, and through Europe to magnify our influence worldwide. A positive European vision is critical to the nation's future success."

"We believe it important that Britain should succeed and for Britain to prepare now to join a successful single currency when the British people freely vote to do so. This is the right policy for our country, and it is one we shall continue to commend with conviction to the Conservative Party and the nation as a whole."

Warning that the hardest choices will come on Europe they wrote: "Conservatives committed to Britain at the heart of Europe will support Tony Blair and his colleagues in making the right decisions, on the difficult challenges which lie ahead — during the next six months and beyond."

That translates as meaning that the Eurosceptics think Mr Hague's wish to wait 10 years before deciding to join the single currency is absurd and that they would do what Roy Jenkins's allies did in 1971-73 when Labour's moderates backed Ted Heath on EU membership.

Last night Mr Lamont said "a deafening silence" might be more appropriate from the group, considering how Britain was misled at the time. Mr Lamont himself was then a pro-European.

Rory Carroll

THE NSPCC demanded yesterday that the makers of a "chilling" Channel 4 documentary in which self-confessed paedophiles advocate sex with children should hand over incriminating evidence to the police.

The programme, to be broadcast on Thursday, was also accused by care workers of achieving a mainstream television first — propaganda for child molesters.

Paul Cavadino, spokesman for the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said the programme gave a platform to men who saw nothing wrong with criminal activities which traumatised children.

Titled The Devil Amongst Us, the programme features interviews with five paedophiles. Three have been convicted of sex offences. Speaking without their faces hidden, they argue for the right to have sex with children and lament that society forces them underground.

Mr Cavadino said it was morally indefensible for such arguments to be broadcast. "It is quite wrong for a mainstream TV channel to give airtime to someone trying to justify activities that have a



Colin who made a video featuring naked boys

lifelong damaging effect on children.

"This highlights the offenders who don't see that what they do is wrong. They justify the offences to themselves and those people who haven't been convicted could have their views reinforced."

The NSPCC, which led criticism against The End of Alice, a novel about a violent paedophile, said the programme was unbalanced. "It is unfortunate that the film does not take the child's perspective into account as well as the perpetrator's." No adult survivor speaks, nor is there any information on the

damage survivors deal with throughout their lives.

"It is a chilling account of how men who have no moral scruples and who do not share the values of our society, operate in sexually abusing children."

The programme makers should hand incriminating information to the police."

Dea Bicket, the journalist who made the film, said showing the true face of paedophiles armed society with the knowledge to protect children. "Having knowledge of an enemy does not defeat him but it does make us stronger."

One paedophile inter-

viewer, aged 50, said the campaign to legalise sex between children and adults was hampered by misunderstanding. "He said sex with a child does not have to involve penetration. 'It's normally fondling, mutual masturbation, kissing and cuddling. In general the same things that heterosexuals do with one another.'"

Arguing that sex with a child was not abuse if it was consensual, he said eight-year-olds could easily be attracted to a 50-year-old like him.

"I would hope that it's because I would have a kind personality, be kind to the child, be loving and tender."

Gill, a 75-year-old suffering terminal cancer, told the programme he deserved sympathy for having been forced to keep his paedophilic tendencies a secret from his former wife, two adult children and fellow trade unionists.

Colin, aged 47, defended an amateur video he made, which led to a conviction of possessing indecent material. Any of the three boys shown, said Colin, "can look at the shots of his own naked body and say, 'Oh look at that! That's me!' And it fills a child full of confidence and does him an awful lot of good. If there's one thing I love to see, it's children enjoying themselves."

'Urge' made youth stab woman

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

ATEENAGER plunged a knife up to its hilt in a woman's head on a train because an "urge" came over him. He later dialled 999 and told the police that he had been "a pratt", an Old Bailey jury was told yesterday.

Alison Kennedy, aged 28, an educational officer for the Multiple Sclerosis Society in Northern Ireland, had been in London with her mother for a weekend visit and was travelling to her sister's home in Guildford in Surrey in March.

Gina Connor, prosecuting, said that Ms Kennedy was almost alone on the train. She noticed a tall, slim young man with a skinhead haircut walking past her and then returning to her carriage. Shortly afterwards, she felt a sharp pain and blood on her head. She had been stabbed with such force that the knife was buried up to its hilt in her head.

Robert Buckland, aged 18, of no fixed abode, pleaded guilty to wounding but denied attempted murder.

The jury heard that Ms Kennedy managed to walk towards the rear of the train where a passenger made her

sit down and talked to her until the train entered Clendon station where he pulled the communication cord. She was treated by paramedics and later at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in London.

Mr Connor told the jury, Ms Kennedy was now visually handicapped, at risk of post-traumatic epilepsy and was permanently damaged emotionally. She could not drive and was unlikely to be able to work again.

The court heard that Buckland had tried to open the train doors while the train was moving and had run off

when it reached Clendon. But he returned and dialled 999 from a phone booth.

A tape recording of the call was played to the jury. Asked by the operator why he had stabbed the woman, he says that an "urge" had come over him. "I tried to stop myself but I couldn't. I'm a pratt, aren't I?" He asked for the police to be sent. He added: "If you don't hurry up, I'm going to kill myself."

He told police later: "I can't believe she will live after the way I stabbed her... I have been so stupid. I don't know what made me do it."

The case continues.

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Germany wants Schengen shelved to halt a tide of migrants, but Greece has given them hope, write **Ian Traynor** and **Helena Smith**

EU passport-free regime buckles

GERMANY yesterday reacted to the plight of Kurdish boat people in the Mediterranean by seeking to lay down the law to southern European countries on immigration. Calls were also made for the suspension of the Schengen regime which enables passport-free travel among nine European Union countries.

Manfred Kanther, the German interior minister, told Italy and Greece to get tough on immigrants and demanded that the exodus of Kurds from the Middle East be "stamped out".

Gerhard Glogowski, the social democratic interior minister of Lower Saxony, called for the Schengen accords to be shelved unless Italy reversed its policy of offering asylum to Kurdish immigrants.

The EU must form a co-ordinated policy to deal with illegal Kurdish immigrants, the French foreign minister, Hubert Vedrine, said in Lisbon. He was speaking ahead of a meeting of EU experts in Brussels tomorrow to discuss the operation of the Schengen regime amid the crisis.

Italy, which said it would grant political asylum to genuine Kurdish immigrants fleeing persecution, has taken in more than 1,200 migrants in the past week and is poised to receive many more. EU states, particularly Germany and France, fear they will pour northwards to other Schengen states.

"The EU should do everything possible to have a co-ordinated homogenous position on this subject," Mr Vedrine told a news conference. "When there is a mass immigration, the principles should be different to those in day-to-day immigration."

"The principles in this case are that Europe should have the responsibility to control immigrant flows as completely as possible."

France has sent police reinforcements to its border with Italy to prevent Kurds entering the country, and Mr Kanther said police on Germany's southern border were poised to reinforce the frontier at the slightest indication of a migrant surge.

Mr Kanther, while not supporting Mr Glogowski's call to shelve Schengen, outlined



measures which would effectively suspend the free-border regime. "In view of this threatening situation, western Europe must view itself as a security community," he said.

He called on Italy to erect road checkpoints to prevent the immigrants moving north to join the 500,000 Kurds living in Germany, and urged Greece and Turkey to look out for illegal immigrants

at ports and ferry terminals. "All our countries are potential destinations if the beginnings are not stamped out," Mr Kanther said.

Italy and Greece in particular must take much tougher action against illegal immigration.

Thousands of illegal immigrants swamped Greek labour offices yesterday as Athens moved to legalise almost half a million refugees for the first time. The rush came as

Greece stepped up patrols in the Aegean, amid fears of a mass influx of Kurds from Turkey. The socialist government said it had sent scores of coastguard officials, armed with assault rifles and trained by the country's special forces, to patrol the seas.

Since the doors were opened to illegal immigrants on January 1, more than 20,000 refugees from Europe, Africa

and Asia have besieged government offices to apply for work and residence permits. Under the law, immigrants will be granted temporary work permits before being issued with renewable, two-year residence permits.

The government says the move is aimed as much at controlling the economic migrants who have rapidly flooded Greece's booming black labour market — as it is

at providing them with a better life. In recent years, growing numbers, not least from Albania, have been blamed for soaring crime.

"Now that they know there are certain conditions to fulfil if they want to be legal, like living in this country for at least two years, they might think twice before entering it," said an official at the labour ministry. But critics believe the move is another

crack in fortress Europe, although Greece is not a member of the Schengen group. Karim Rezaul, a Bangladeshi aged 36, waiting outside the main Athens labour office, said he had "prayed and wept" for three years for this moment. "I first heard that Greece was thinking of legalising immigrants when I got to Iran, three years ago," he said.

Mr Rezaul, who had walked across the border from Istanbul, added: "News travels fast among immigrants. We always keep each other informed."

Seth Mensah, a Ghanaian aged 34, who was standing behind him in the heaving crowd, said: "I've been working on ships here for seven years."

"Once I've got real documents in my hands, I'll be able to travel freely across Europe. Europe will just have to accept me."



A Kurdish boy (left) looks through a fence of a refugee camp in San Foca, southern Italy, yesterday, while (above) illegal immigrants in Athens wait outside a labour office to regularise their status for the first time. They will be granted temporary work permits before getting renewable residence permits. PHOTOGRAPHS: MARCO LAPORTA AND LOUISA OUELHAMANI

'In view of this threatening situation, western Europe must view itself as a security community. All our countries are potential destinations if the beginnings are not stamped out'

Manfred Kanther, German interior minister

'When there is a mass immigration, the principles should be different to those in day-to-day immigration. The principles in this case are that Europe should have the responsibility to control immigrant flows as completely as possible'

Hubert Vedrine, French foreign minister

Discord on monetary union

Brussels mandarin dampens job hopes

Martin Walker in Brussels

EUROPE'S 18 million unemployed should not expect to be helped directly by the coming of the single currency or by Europe's monetary policies, the European Union's top financial mandarin said yesterday.

Sir Nigel Wicks, chairman of the powerful EU monetary committee, deliberately dashed the hopes of European MPs, and of the French government, that the growth and stability pact agreed at the Amsterdam summit would put full employment high on the agenda for the new European central bank.

"I would not regard monetary policy as an instrument for solving unemployment. It is an instrument for dealing with inflation," he told the European parliament's monetary committee.

"If you have price stability and an expectation of price stability, that is the best contribution monetary policy can make to unemployment. But it cannot itself solve unemployment."

European MPs were visibly dismayed by Sir Nigel's stern orthodoxy.

"What of the fight against mass unemployment?" said Christa Randzio-Plath, the German Social Democrat chairwoman of the parliament's monetary committee. "What chance is

there of a more reasonable monetary policy, or do we have to expect even more interest rate increases when they are too high anyway?"

She and British Labour MEP Alan Donnelly are leading the European parliament's campaign to make the single-currency planners and the new European central bank more accountable.

In what promises to be a prolonged clash between the parliament and officials over economic policy, the question is whether the euro should be run for the benefit of the banks and the markets, or of the European people as a whole.

In an exchange which could almost have been taken from

a Yes, Minister script, Sir Nigel offered endless assurances about "dialogue being ever more important", while repeatedly insisting that all such dialogue with the politicians "must respect the independence of the European central bank".

Sir Nigel's committee is one of the most influential but secretive of Brussels institutions. Composed of officials from the finance ministry and central bank of each member state, it has been the custodian of fiscal orthodoxy and one of the most powerful (and unselected) institutional forces pushing the establishment of the single currency.

"There were doomsayers who prophesied turbulence in

the exchange rate mechanism as we approached the critical period. I am glad to say they were wrong," he told the parliament's committee in a rare display of personal commitment to the single currency.

He added that fiscal orthodoxy was the reason the euro was still on track. "Although this has been a period of some turbulence in other currencies, this has not been the case in Europe because of the consistent application for several years now of sound policies."

Although its deliberations are secret, Sir Nigel's committee is seen by MEPs as the European Union's most determined that the single currency's priority should be to im-

press the markets with its orthodoxy.

"The EU's economic and monetary committee is clearly dominated by the monetary faction," Ms Randzio-Plath said yesterday. Even the United States federal reserve board had a commitment to full employment written into its statutes, which, she said, was more than could be said for the new European central bank.

Mr Donnelly warned that accountability would be further reduced as preparations for the euro cut the powers of the individual central banks, and so reduced the influence of national parliaments.

Hugo Young, page 6



Maurice Papon on his way to court in Bordeaux yesterday

'If we had talked like we do today we would have been shot,' Papon tells court

Paul Webster in Paris

MAURICE Papon, aged 87, returned to the dock at Bordeaux Assizes yesterday after a two-week adjournment to face survivors of Jewish families who allege that he went beyond his orders to deport nearly 200 children who were gassed in Auschwitz.

Despite concern about his health the former Vichy official, who is charged with crimes against humanity, put up a vigorous defence when the prosecution accused him of collaborating with the Nazis — even after he knew of the fate of Jews rounded up by French police. During cross-examination by the judge, he said that his only fault was naivety in trying to negotiate exceptions with the Germans, who had "the hypocritical typical of their race".

"We did not have the possibility to do any better," he said. "If we had talked like we do today we would have been shot."

The often interrupted hearing is in its fourth month, but there have been only 40 days of evidence so far.

Yesterday the court heard the prosecution's first detailed evidence of the suffering of 441 Jews, including about 80 children, who left Bordeaux in a deportation train on August 26, 1942. Documents signed by Mr Papon authorising police to arrest children were shown to the court.

Some of the witnesses were related to children sent to die in Germany. Among them was Therese Stoppnicki, aged 61, who was six when her sisters Nelly, five, and Rachel, two, were arrested while staying in a hostel kept by a Jewish organisation. Their photographs were shown to the nine-member jury.

Mr Papon allegedly authorised the arrest between 1942 and 1944 of 1,580 Jews who left in night trains for the transit camp at Drancy near Paris before being murdered in Germany.

Jittery Germans mourn their doomed mark

Ian Traynor in Bonn

AFRESH bout of euro angst and premature nostalgia for the national currency is gripping Germany six months before the country celebrates the 50th birthday of the mark by presiding over its funeral.

The first opinion poll of 1998, published yesterday, registered growing reluctance to relinquish the mark — the talisman of post-war German prosperity and democracy — and little faith in the politicians' promises of a successful single currency.

It comes as manifestoes against the single currency are rolling off the presses, and a legal challenge is being prepared to save the mark.

Opposition to the euro and the groundswell of nervousness about losing the mark, however, will not dissuade Chancellor Helmut Kohl from ensuring at a European Union meeting in May that everything is done to establish the euro. In his view the single currency is a watershed making monetary union irreversible, entrench Germany in a wider Europe

and give a hefty push to European political union.

The poll of 1,000 people in Der Spiegel magazine showed 56 per cent against trading the mark for the euro, up from 45 per cent in the same poll a year ago. Three out of four Germans, including many supporters of Mr Kohl's Christian Democrats, believed the euro would be weaker and softer than the mark.

Three formidable state premiers could try to tap public anxiety on the euro

Although the looming challenges to the government's pro-euro policies in the constitutional court may have little ultimate bearing on the key euro decisions, the publicity given to the euro-sceptics' arguments looks likely to reinforce mass antagonism to the single currency.

Two senior economists, a lawyer and a former central banker are to lodge their complaint with the supreme court next Monday, arguing that the euro's

launch in a year's time should be postponed because the terms for the single currency will not have been properly met.

An anti-euro book, with contributions by 41 experts, is being rushed out to accompany the challenge. It makes plain that the sceptics' aim is not merely to have the euro delayed, but for the policy of monetary union to be abandoned.

Wolfgang Schäuble, Mr Kohl's number two, has signalled that the government is not worried about the resort to the court. But its problems are more likely to surface politically.

Three of the country's most formidable state premiers — Edmund Stoiber of Bavaria, Gerhard Schröder of Lower Saxony, and Kurt Biedenkopf of Saxony — are trenchant critics of the chancellor's single-currency policies and could try to tap public anxiety.

Bavaria's ruling Christian Social Union is poised for a bruising euro row at a meeting tomorrow ahead of elections later this year. The party is split between Mr Stoiber and the party leader, Theo Waigel, Mr Kohl's finance minister who is one of the architects of the single currency regime.

Hue demands French referendum on Europe

Paul Webster in Paris

THE Communist Party leader, Robert Hue, demanded the Socialist prime minister, Lionel Jospin, yesterday by demanding a new referendum on Europe's future and monetary union.

The move adds to growing tension between the Socialists and its partners in the governing coalition, the Communists and Greens, which have openly supported jobless people occupying welfare offices in big cities to protest at action by the labour minister, Martine Aubrey.

Mr Hue threatened a parliamentary revolt over Europe, pointing out that his MPs had already abstained over key Socialist measures on immigration and nationality.

In bypassing Mr Jospin and taking his referendum demand to President Jacques Chirac, Mr Hue indirectly gave notice of a leftwing split over Europe in local elections in March.

The move came after the French constitutional council — a supreme court — ruled that the recent Amsterdam treaty could be applied only after constitutional amendments. Such changes can be made with the joint approval of the national assembly and

senate — a non-risk solution proposed by Mr Jospin — or by referendum.

Although the Communist Party dropped its opposition to European unity, which it considered as capitalist inspired, Mr Hue said some decisions — including the introduction of the euro — went beyond ratified agreements.

Since the Maastricht referendum, decisions have been taken that restrict the adop-

Bypassing Jospin, he indirectly gave notice of a leftwing split over Europe

tion of new policies of human and social progress which the French electorate chose in May and June," he said. "Are we going to confirm or accentuate current choices that place Europe under the domination of financial markets? Or are we going to change direction towards a social Europe where money will be used to create jobs?"

He said the Communists would hold a national demonstration on January 18 against the single currency. Apparently speaking on be-

half of Mr Jospin, the justice minister, Elisabeth Guigou, and the education minister, Claude Allègre, said the government was against a referendum because France had already voted for Europe.

The dispute could not have come at a worse time for Mr Jospin whose government is being criticised for its handling of the sit-in by unemployed seeking a special end-of-year payment of €300, added to the dole.

Despite a government offer of about 250 million for training programmes, 15 welfare centres — including eight in the Paris region — were still occupied yesterday.

The leader of the Green movement and environment minister, Dominique Voynet, said the labour minister had not dealt with the fundamental issue. "We need strong social action so that we don't forget the commitments we made during the election campaign," she said.

The Communist-led trade union, CGT, and groups representing the jobless said Ms Aubrey had rejected legitimate claims. But the secretary-general of the Socialist-led CFTD, Nicole Notat, who also administers the unemployment fund, said the protest was a media operation intended to manipulate distress.

Britain is swinging because Pulp, Oasis, Portishead and most of the British artists were subsidised by the DSS before they made it big.

Life on the dole

G2 Arts, page 8

سكان البحر

Murder suspect asks for private meeting with judge to protest at his brother's presence in court

Unabomber trial disrupted



Theo Kaczynski's mother, Wanda, and brother, David

Christopher Reed
in Los Angeles

THE suspected Unabomber, Theodore Kaczynski, delayed the opening day of his trial in Sacramento, California, yesterday, by demanding to make a statement, prompting the judge to retire to chambers with counsel.

It was believed that Mr Kaczynski protested at the presence of his brother in the courtroom and raised further issues relating to his lawyers in a private meeting with Judge Garland Burrell.

After arguing with his defence team for a month over

the issue of his allegedly defective mental state, the prickly former maths professor forced them last week to abandon the strategy.

Mr Kaczynski, aged 55, is on trial for the murder of two Californian men and the making of two others during a 17-year terrorist campaign across America. If found guilty, he could face the death penalty.

Yesterday's hearing should have opened with the usual statements to the jury as defendants can speak out only when giving evidence or in a statement prior to sentencing it found guilty.

Mr Kaczynski made his request for a meeting calmly and deliberately, explaining

that he could not stand up because federal marshals told him he had to stay seated.

"I want to make a statement," he said, clutching a manila envelope. The judge immediately called a recess.

David Kaczynski, a social worker who reluctantly told authorities of his suspicions about his brother, arrived at the court with their octogenarian mother, Wanda. He made no comment.

Both relatives are expected to give evidence, but the government's decision to seek the death penalty has angered David who understood it would be waived in return for his co-operation.

The defendant ignored his family in court, even while

his mother wept. He also ignored his defence counsel.

David led FBI agents to his brother's mountain cabin in Montana in 1996. "A mountain of evidence" was allegedly found inside, according to the prosecution, including a version of a 35,000-word "manifesto" denouncing modern society and its technology. The essay was printed in two big US newspapers.

Mr Kaczynski is alleged to have killed three people and injured 29 others, all of whom were connected with high-technology or environmentally threatening jobs. He allegedly made the mail bombs at his cabin.

The jury will also hear about the secret code allegedly

used by the former academic. The old fashioned and relatively simple handwritten code used a grid and numbers to represent letters. The FBI claims to have found the key among the jumble of belongings in the cabin, which had neither electricity nor running water.

Still to be decided by the judge is the use of "before and after" photographs of Mr Kaczynski, which the defence wants to show the jury as a subtle mental derangement argument. An earlier photo shows a neatly combed Kaczynski in a collar and tie and sports coat in his university days. The other depicts an unkempt and bearded figure in stained ragged clothes.

News in brief

Cambodia's king makes sudden exit

CAMBODIA'S King Norodom Sihanouk abruptly left the country yesterday after backing away from offering his son, the exiled and deposed co-prime minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, an unconditional amnesty.

The king and Queen Monineath left the country on a commercial flight for Beijing, without notifying the co-prime ministers, Hun Sen and Ung Huot. King Sihanouk, who has been facing a barrage of criticism from some Hun Sen supporters in recent days, did not speak to reporters before boarding the flight.

Prince Ranariddh, who fled the country last July on the eve of the coup against him, was charged in his absence by a military court with smuggling weapons and colluding with Khmer Rouge guerrillas. He has been told he must stand trial on his return. — Reuters, Phnom Penh.

Sierra Leone attack 'repelled'

SIERRA LEONE'S army said yesterday that it had repelled an attack on the southern town of Bo by the Kamajor militia force supporting Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, the president ousted in a coup last May.

A military spokesman confirmed reports by aid workers of heavy fighting on the outskirts of Bo, 150 miles south of the capital Freetown, at the weekend. He said 35 militiamen were killed and two troops died. The figures could not be checked.

International aid workers in Freetown said colleagues in Bo had told them that calm had returned yesterday. Hundreds of Bo's residents were reported to be fleeing to outlying villages on Sunday. — Reuters, Freetown.

Taliban rejects UN pleas

THE Taliban said yesterday that it would not allow the United Nations World Food Programme to airlift emergency supplies to the opposition-held town of Bamyan in central Afghanistan. The airlift was suspended last week after Taliban jets bombed the area, including the runway where a UN cargo plane was parked.

A UN representative, sent to southern Kandahar to meet Taliban leaders on Saturday and negotiate an end to the bombing, came away empty-handed. A UN official in the Pakistani capital Islamabad said the Taliban's response had been "non-committal". But a Taliban spokesman in Kandahar said the answer was clear: "We told the UN that they cannot fly into Bamyan."

The UN fears an estimated 600,000 people face serious food shortages by the end of winter. — AP, Kabul.

Beijing ponders privatisation

CHINA plans to lay off 1.1 million railway workers within two years in a sweeping restructuring that could lead to the privatisation of some lines, state media reported yesterday.

Departments within the ministry of railways not dealing with transport, such as engineering, construction and manufacturing, will compete on the open market, the newspaper China Daily said. Most ministry enterprises will be required to adopt corporate-style management, discarding centralised control and planning, it added.

The government would control main trunk lines, but might lease or transfer management of some non-trunk lines, the deputy minister of railways, Fu Zhihuan, was quoted as saying. The government wants to cut industry losses, which last year reached \$300 million, the newspaper said. — AP, Beijing.

Children killed in fire

THREE young children died in a house fire while their parents escaped unharmed with their 18-month-old baby in an accident caused by heavy storms sweeping Belgium, officials said yesterday. A firefighter in Halle, 12 miles south of Brussels, said strong winds swirling in the chimney blew sparks back into the house late on Sunday and quickly set it alight. The three children — aged three, five and six — were trapped. — AP, Brussels.

Iranian journalists protest

IRAN'S union of journalists, in a rare protest, has accused the hard-line judiciary chief of trying to obstruct press freedom, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

A statement from the union, carried by Iran's state media on Sunday, was designed to counter comments by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, the head of the judicial system, who last week criticised Iran for reporting the arrest of an opposition leader.

The statement said: "Any measure to obstruct the free dissemination of the news and information... is considered an interference in freedom of the press." Criticism of senior officials by the union is rare, but the Iranian media have become bolder since moderate Mohammed Khatami, was elected president in August. — AP, Tehran.

'UFO' Fossett falls to earth

FOR THE fourth time yesterday, Steve Fossett's hopes of becoming the first solo balloonist to fly non-stop around the world fell to earth. After piloting the balloon more than 7,000 miles and crossing the Black Sea, he touched down at a field in the Krasnodar region of south Russia, thwarted by equipment failure.

"I decided that I needed to land because my equipment wasn't going to make it around the world," Mr Fossett said.

Mikhail Panchenko, who was fixing his tractor in the field when he saw the craft floating towards him, said: "I was so scared I dropped my tools and started running away. I thought it was a UFO that would take me away." — AP, Krasnodar.

Distrust thy neighbour

BRITISH diplomats in Kiev were forced to give up their new embassy building because of Ukrainian fears that they might spy on their neighbour, the country's president, Leonid Kuchma, a Ukrainian newspaper said yesterday.

"Officials were concerned that British diplomats, working near the president of Ukraine, might resist the temptation to listen to every word the president and his family said," the daily Vsesukrayinskye Vedomosti reported.

The embassy was to be located next door to the government's new six-storey building where Mr Kuchma and his family live on the top floor. A British diplomat said they had been offered compensation. — Reuters, Kiev.

Turkish journalists fight back

THE mother of murdered journalist Metin Goktepe protests yesterday at delays to the trial of the 11 policemen accused of beating him to death in Istanbul three years ago.

Meanwhile Turkey's long-suffering journalists, fed up with regular beatings from over-zealous police, have come up with an idea to protect themselves: protest waistcoats.

The waistcoats carry the words, "No Hitting" on the back, with a picture of a police truncheon in a red circle with a line through it. "We want to remind the police that the media is also serving a public duty and that beating us is illegal and inhumane," television cameramen said in a statement.

The problem has grown worse with the recent rapid increase in the number of television stations, although the Turkish police have always had a bad reputation for hitting first and asking questions later. One cameraman said: "We hope they will see these signs and stop to think. We don't want to provoke them." — Chris Morris, Ankara.

Netanyahu survives budget test

David Starrock in Jerusalem

BINYAMIN Netanyahu survived a crucial vote in the Israeli parliament yesterday, the first test of his depleted coalition since foreign minister David Levy's resignation plunged the government into crisis.

The prime minister won the Knesset vote on his budget by a comfortable margin of 58-52, with only one abstention from his party's backbenchers. The budget — and its large hand-outs to the ultra-Orthodox and Jewish settlers — was a key factor in Mr Levy's resignation on Sunday.

While the size of his vote brought a smile to Mr Netanyahu's face, many politicians believe it will not stay there for long. He faces another confidence motion as early as next week, brought by the left-wing Meretz party.

After that Mr Netanyahu must finally reveal the extent of a promised Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank when he meets President Bill Clinton at the White House in a fortnight. One of his coalition partners has promised to bring him down if he goes ahead with the pullout, while another has promised to do the same if he does not.

It is just conceivable that having secured cabinet approval for a further troop redeployment, Mr Netanyahu could secure cross-party support in the Knesset and risk angering the far-right parties. But then he faces a new dilemma, the bitter stand-off between Orthodox and secular

factions over the conversion law, which would legally define Jews as Orthodox only, excluding Reform and secular Jews.

In spite of the widely held view that he is living on borrowed time, Mr Netanyahu insists there will be no early poll. "I know they're the fashion now and everyone is doing the maths, but what can you do? This government, this coalition and this prime minister don't work according to regular maths," he said.

"We've passed the budget and we are now embarking on a new diplomatic path because the hard part is behind us. The possibilities of starting a step that will lead to a permanent peace arrangement are before us."

Since last April President Clinton has been refusing to see Mr Netanyahu, but the Israeli leader confirmed the forthcoming meeting would go ahead. The United States' special envoy, Dennis Ross, is to arrive in Israel today.

Mr Levy, who sat next to Mr Netanyahu during part of yesterday's Knesset proceedings, voted against the budget with the four other members of his Geshir faction. Without Mr Levy, Mr Netanyahu will come under greater pressure from rightwingers to roll back the "significant and credible" West Bank redeployment the US seeks.

Ehud Barak, leader of the opposition Labor party, said the government's days were numbered. "It is a plane running out of fuel that is about to crash into the mountainside."

Leader comment, page 8

Black consumers shake up Brazil

Business is ignoring a monthly market worth £300m, writes Candace Piette in Sao Paulo

TRADITIONAL Brazilian attitudes towards race and colour have been shaken by a report on the consumer habits of Afro-Brazilians.

It reveals that, although most black Brazilians are still poorer, less educated and have a shorter life expectancy than whites, an educated black middle class of 7 million people, with a total disposable income of around \$200 million, now exists. But this group feels it is being ignored by those in economic power.

The report is published by a Sao Paulo-based marketing company, Grottera Communications, and based on interviews with Afro-Brazilians in 23 states.

It says that the new black middle class families have an average income of about \$1,500 a month. Members are well-educated by Brazilian standards, having completed a quarter of families employ a domestic servant. A third own a personal computer.

"I wanted to show Brazilian business that there is a population the size of Portugal's which is not being catered for," said Luiz Grottera, president of Grottera Communications.

People interviewed for the report said they found it hard to buy products designed for their skin-type, colour and size.

When a company used a black model in its advertisement — which is rare — the product had a 71 per cent acceptance rate among the interviewees, said Mr Grottera. Yet many company executives said they did not want to identify their products with blacks who were on the whole "poor" and "ugly". Others said they feared losing market share among whites if they targeted blacks.

"The trouble is, the question of race in Brazil is a powerful issue here," said Mr Grottera. "There is an attitude that it is best to pretend there is integration and not to recognise black people as different."

Mr Grottera believes companies are losing millions by not targeting the black consumer.

"It's stunning to see the Brazilian fashion retail industry going bankrupt. In December, Sao Paulo hosted the first trade fair for black hair, clothing and cosmetic products, which created \$18 million in business. A new Saturday afternoon television programme dealing with black issues, and with black presenters and personalities, has started on the second-largest network.

"Even Brazil's soap operas now have sub-plots about black middle-class families," said Haroldo Macedo, editor of a new magazine, Raca, targeted at the black middle class. "What we are seeing here is the future."



Visiting Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan kisses Winnie Mandela beneath a painting of her ex-husband in her Soweto home. He attacked the truth commission for interrogating a 'warrior for justice'

PHOTOGRAPH: ODD ANDERSEN

Zapatistas block stock market

Phil Gannon and Reuters in Mexico City

SUPPORTERS of Zapatista rebels in southern Mexico blocked access to the Mexican stock market yesterday and occupied two radio stations in Mexico City, witnesses said.

The demonstrators threw red paint at the stock market building on central Reforma Avenue and put coffins in the street to symbolise the deaths of 45 Indians massacred by paramilitaries last month in Chiapas. Trading was delayed for nearly 45 minutes.

At the same time as the stock market demonstration, dozens of other protesters wearing black ski masks and bandannas occupied two Mexico City radio stations and broadcast a taped message from the Zapatistas.

The protesters, mostly students, were members or supporters of the Zapatista National Liberation Front, the political wing of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), whose guerrillas rose up against the government in Chiapas in January 1994.

The troubles in Chiapas have threatened an interior minister for the second time since President Ernesto Zedillo took office in 1994. Francisco Labastida Ochoa, the former agriculture minister, replaced Emilio Chuayffert on Saturday.

Judge frees Robin Hoodlum

STATE prosecutors in Mexico City have been left open-mouthed by a judge's decision to free the self-confessed killer of US citizen John Zárates, shot dead in a taxi in the course of a robbery on December 15, writes Phil Gannon.

According to the prosecutor's office, Judge María Claudia Campuzano justified the release of Alfonso González Sánchez (aka "El Chucky") and his four accomplices on the grounds that he was "a modern Robin Hood".

Not only did he "steal and redistribute what he obtained by stealing", the judge said, but he paid his

accomplices over the odds and "made no profit at all".

The five were arrested on December 30, in possession of the taxi in which the crime was committed. Police said they confessed, and gave details of the Zárates killing as well as admitting to another 50 offences.

The judge accepted the confessions, explicitly ruling out the possibility that they had been extracted under torture.

The US embassy, which last month reiterated its warning to US citizens about the dangers of taxis in Mexico City, declined to comment on the case.

He is an ally of Mr Chuayffert's predecessor in the interior ministry, Esteban Moctezuma. Mr Moctezuma's policy of direct negotiations with the EZLN leader Subcomandante Marcos was derided by Mr Zedillo's decision to send the army into Zapatista territory in February 1995.

If the government were to return to genuine negotiations, an early victim could be Chiapas governor Julio César Ruiz Ferro, whose position is more exposed since Mr Chuayffert's dismissal.

Julio Hernández López, a commentator for the newspaper La Jornada, said the removal of Mr Chuayffert would increase pressure for the dismissal of Mr Ruiz Ferro and his trial "on charges of possible responsibility in the crimes" committed in Chiapas.

The president of the opposition Party of the Democratic Revolution, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, told a rally in the Catholic church — has stated that the Zapatistas must first be disarmed. This is interpreted by some as a virtual declaration of war.

There are, however, a few signs of hope. One is President Zedillo's order that the army suspend its over-zealous search for weapons in Zapatista communities.

Another is that Mr Labas-

talks for more than a year. The government — supported by the rightwing National Action Party and conservative elements in the Catholic church — has stated that the Zapatistas must first be disarmed. This is interpreted by some as a virtual declaration of war.

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Grim reading for males

The moral? Everyone can improve not just boys

SCHOOLS were given a new challenge yesterday — improving the performance of boys. Ministers have become alarmed by the degree to which boys are falling behind girls in both primary and secondary schools. Stephen Byers, the schools minister, could not have been blunter in his speech to an international conference on school effectiveness in Manchester: "We must challenge the laddish, anti-learning culture which has been allowed to develop over recent years and should not simply accept with a shrug of the shoulders that boys will be boys." Good for Mr Byers. It is easy for opposition ministers to speak out against an anti-learning culture, but much rarer to see an education minister accepting something must be done.

The official statistics released at the weekend make grim reading for males. They show girls outperforming boys at GCSE level in all but one local authority. In terms of the proportion of pupils obtaining five A to C grades at GCSE, the gap between boys and girls has widened nationally to nine per cent in the last decade. In some areas, 15 per cent more girls than boys are achieving this academic benchmark. In English, where the gap is widest, 59 per cent of girls are now achieving a grade C or better compared to 41 per cent of boys. But boys are no longer just behind in English, they now lag behind in what once were regarded as traditional "male subjects" — maths, science, design and technology. At the bottom of the pile, 28,500 boys leave school each year without any qualifications compared to only 21,500 girls.

But not everything is new. Four decades ago girls were doing better than boys in the 11-plus requiring education administrators to set a lower cut-off point for boys to ensure equal numbers of each gender went on to grammar schools. Although girls are less likely to

fail A levels, boys collect more A grades. Researchers suggest boys take more risks than girls leading to both their higher proportion of A grades and their higher failure rates. Girls are much more concentrated round the average. A similar pattern repeats itself at university with boys winning more first class degrees but also having a higher failure rate.

What else is going on? Both boys and girls have improved their performance at GCSE but girls have accelerated ahead much faster. One reason is the nature of GCSE, which plays to girls' strengths in its emphasis on continual assessment of course work. Boys have always done better in sudden-death tests like end-of-year examinations. The differences between the genders in science and maths should not be exaggerated. They are small. What has changed is the much larger numbers of girls taking maths and science, both of which are now compulsory subjects up to the age of 16. Most important of all, girls now have far more ambition than three decades ago. Equal opportunity policies have played their part. So have the new opportunities generated by a hi-tech service economy.

So what should schools do? First they should remember that most pupils could improve their standards and not forget that 21,500 girls leave without any qualifications. Ministers are right to challenge education authorities to come up with their own schemes. Policy makers still have a lot to learn. Ministers are keen to see more male teachers in primary schools. The research on male role models is ambivalent but if this means ministers will be ready to increase primary school pay, no-one should object. The current literacy and numeracy task forces are aimed at 7 to 11-year-olds. They need to intervene earlier, beginning with nursery school preparation.

The messy threat to Stormont

It needs a clear signal against extremism from David Trimble

THE CYNICS who said it could never work must feel close to vindication. It has taken little more than a week for the Northern Ireland peace process to start unravelling, with some of its most serious players now warning that it is on the brink of collapse. The doomsayers always predicted the trouble would come from Sinn Féin/IRA. Yet now we have Sinn Féin's chief negotiator urging people not to despair — while a loyalist militant phones the BBC from his prison cell to warn that his group's ceasefire could soon be called off. Suddenly the men to fear are those claiming to be loyal to the Crown and the UK.

The trouble began with a single act — the Irish National Liberation Army's murder of the loyalist militant, Billy Wright, inside the Maze prison. That touched off a series of reprisals which brought back all the familiar features of the conflict: fear, mistrust and bloody violence. Even then the problem seemed containable: both the INLA and Mr Wright's Loyalist Volunteer Force could be cast as enemies of the peace process, a common threat to both mainstream unionism and nationalism. But security sources reiterated yesterday their belief that the attempted New Year's Eve massacre at the Clifton Tavern was not the sole handiwork of the rejectionist LVF, but was helped (or more) by one of the mainstream groups represented at the Stormont talks.

This poses a much deeper problem, suggesting that paramilitary loyalism is not just talking about breaking its

ceasefire — it's already done it. The British Government is now in the odd position of simultaneously urging the Ulster Democratic Party to stay around the Stormont table, even as it must consider ejecting it for its ties to a group involved in violence. The fact that the UDP has denied the claim of complicity at Clifton gives London a breathing space, but it won't last for long. And the Progressive Unionist Party has set a deadline of one week before deciding whether it stays with the peace process — or walks out in protest at "top-sided" favouritism toward the republican side.

The whole thing is a dreadful mess, with the loyalists playing the injured party while their gunmen wreak violent havoc. The burden now must be on David Trimble, leader of the largest Unionist party. If he is serious about peace he needs to end the sniping from within his own ranks against the talks process, and against Mo Mowlam in particular, and make it clear he regards the negotiations as the only show in town — which they surely are. He has to carry that message to the loyalist prisoners if he meets them, as his deputy has suggested he might. By staying silent, or by carping about London's bias, he fuels the extremists who already condemn the peace process as illegitimate. If he fails now to do all he can to pull them back from the brink, he will expose his own party as a pool of the hardmen and condemn his beloved province to more bloodshed.

When survival makes it worse

If only Bibi's nightmare would come true...

WHEN GOVERNMENTS fall it is usually called a crisis, and there is a cheer when they live on instead. With Benjamin Netanyahu's limping regime in Israel, it is the reverse. Yesterday he survived the challenge to his budget, after Foreign Minister David Levy's resignation, more easily than expected. Defeat would have kindled a spark, but his (probably temporary) victory has only deepened the cloud over Israeli politics and the peace process.

The White House press spokesman went whistling in the dark to re-assure us that the new crisis made no difference. "The Middle East peace process," he said, "has always continued in its sometimes measured way despite internal political developments (in Israel)." If by measured he means minuscule he is only too right. No one would ever expect Mr Netanyahu, if he meets President Clinton later this month, to deliver enough to revitalise the process. His

insistence on subordinating peace to security — unlike Yitzhak Rabin who treated them as equally important but separate issues — ensures that. But without his late foreign minister Mr Netanyahu will be, if possible, even less forthcoming as the coalition clutch of ultra-right/religious parties breathes heavily down his neck.

Mr Netanyahu has sought to rally defectors with one of the most remarkable warnings to be delivered by an incumbent prime minister. A defeat for him will lead to an election which he would lose. And Israel under a Labour government would end up by being returned "to its pre-1967 borders." That's actually not a bad idea — though there is no prospect that Labour would ever go that far. But a defeat for Bibi and at least a sporting chance of a government prepared to make a fair deal with the Palestinians? Now that would be worth cheering for.



Letters to the Editor

Straw poll: more results come in

THE main reason that drugs destroy lives, ruin families, and undermine communities (Judge ends Straw fiasco, January 3) is because they are illegal, expensive and controlled by the criminal fraternity. To group the health risks of cannabis, amphetamines (or ecstasy) — which, apart from their illegality, are similar to but smaller than those of alcohol and tobacco — with those of crack cocaine or heroin is absurd.

Until we can discuss the use of leisure drugs (including alcohol and tobacco) sensibly, we will continue to lose the battle against drugs just as those who imposed prohibition on America did.

The argument that cannabis use leads on to heroin abuse has as much logic behind it as saying that mother's milk leads to all sorts of criminal behaviour. It is the fact that cannabis users have to consort with criminals to get their supplies, and that there is a very strong financial incentive to wean them onto addictive drugs that accounts for such causal relationship as exists between cannabis and heroin use.

Let us have a royal commission look into the whole matter free from prejudice and the posturing of politicians. Prof Vincent Marks, 33 Westbourne Terrace, London W2 6QT.

POOR Jack Straw clearly has a lot on his mind. On the Today programme, he mixed up the recreational use of cannabis with the medicinal use. If the Home Secretary cannot understand that these issues are wholly separate, it is time for the politicians to turn to the media and to resolve even the simple problem of prescribing cannabis to relieve pain and suffering indicates that both are impossible issues for them.

We need a broad agreement to find ways forward that do not involve the media or politicians. Logic and common sense can then prevail. Manning the barricades is no longer an option.

Dr William G Notcutt, James Paget Hospital, Great Yarmouth NR31 6LA.

CAN Labour's spin-doctors spare us the sanctimonious breast-baring about how the Home Secretary put his principles before his family by turning to his son to the police. In fact, the decision was all about media management and was only taken after consultation with Number 10, following a phone call from a Fleet Street editor. Who knows what "parent" Straw might have done in the absence of certain exposure? Cllr Peter Forrest, Conservative Group Leader, Haringey Council, London N22 4LE.

IN some ways, Dawn Alford is as much a victim of the Jack Straw fiasco as his son. The pernicious world of our tabloid press, and in particular the dumbing-down of the Daily Mirror, has led to a circulation war that entraps journalists as much as they entrapped William Straw. Jack Critchlow, 73 Sherwell Hill, Torquay TQ2 6LX.

MOST parents will have leapt to the defence of Jack Straw. But will he now cease to condemn parents — especially those in deprived areas with childcare difficulties? Will he introduce positive, rather than negative, measures? Dr Bob Holman, 18 Finlary Street, Glasgow G3 6AD.

IS William Straw by any chance a friend of Kate Aldridge of The Archers? Peter Barnes, 21 Hammer Road, Milton Keynes MK6 3AY.

Warfare over welfare

DAVID Plachaud (Million more face poverty under Labour, January 5) points out the dilemma facing a government that is keen to reform welfare but must be careful not to make things worse for poor households. It is not widely known that, when the national minimum wage is introduced, the Government will receive a sizeable annual windfall. Even at a modest rate of £3.50 an hour, present benefit tapers will net the Government around £1.4 billion a year.

This windfall should be reinvested in tackling the aspects of the housing benefit system that discourage people from taking up work. Integrating housing benefit and family credit into a new work credit would account for just £750 million of this annual windfall, whilst helping more people into work.

Jim Coulter, Chief Executive, National Housing Federation, 176 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8LP.

THE idea of introducing charges for the contraceptive pill in order to save £50 million to spend elsewhere in a desperately flagging NHS is madness in the extreme (Abortions warning over pill charge, January 1). The increase in demand for abortion alone will wipe out any savings, never mind the inevitable increase in demand for social security benefits. Even

if lone parent benefit is scrapped and child benefit is taxed, DSS expenditure will increase. Then there's the additional cost on the education system that the explosion in unwanted and unplanned pregnancies will bring.

Keeping within the Tories' spending limits is more than simply working within a stingily restrictive budget. It's about New Labour adopting the once Victorian notion of the undeserving poor, of you only get what you can pay for. This does not reflect the mood of caring that swept the country on May 1.

Jill Mountford, Welfare State Network, 183 Queen's Crescent, London NW5 4DS.

RICHARD Abrams (Let-pointed out that reducing council rents would be an effective strategy that makes work pay and reduces poverty and welfare dependency. Five million people on low incomes find that any increase in wages is largely lost through the withdrawal of family credit, housing and council tax benefit. If all three tapers apply, the loss is 97p in the pound. If only the housing benefit taper applies, the loss is still 76p in the pound. While standard-rate taxpayers keep 67p of every pound of extra income and higher-rate taxpayers keep 60p, reform is clearly necessary. Rents are the crucial factor.

Average council rents in London are approaching £80 a week. A family with two children will only start to keep 67p in the pound for every pound their net weekly income exceeds £21.91. If rents were £40 per week, the net income figure would be £201.14; at £30 a week it falls to £185.75. Without earning a penny more, a family on £231.91 a week would gain £11.80 a week and £17.70 a week by reducing rents by £20 a week and £30 a week respectively.

After fully reimbursing London's councils for the loss in rental income, the cost to the Exchequer is minimal. A recent parliamentary answer revealed it as less than 2p for every pound reduction below £40 a week, even less if rents were over £40 a week. Cllr Peter Challis, Chair, Association of London Government Housing Ctes, 36 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9JF.

DON'T understand all the fuss about proposed reductions in disability benefits. The answer for disabled people like myself is simply to stay in bed for most of the day. That way I can cut down on my food intake and on my heating bills. If disabled people don't have the audacity to go out, councils can also save money by not making public buildings accessible. Dr Christopher J Goodall, 24 Ouse Lea, Shipton Road, York YO3 6SA.

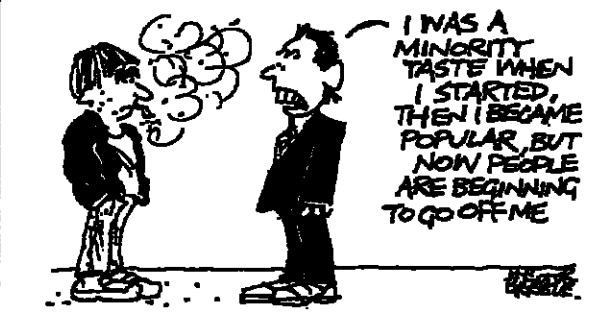
A witness for Mr Motson

WHY should John Motson be so pompously attacked for saying what is perfectly normal (Why this man needs to visit his optician, January 5)? If you have not grown up amongst black people, then it can be difficult upon the instant to identify similar but different faces.

I remember being in a court once with Peter Herbert, then chairman of a barristers' ethnic committee, whose defence of his client was one of identification. He suggested to the witness, a bank clerk who confronted the robber, that he might not easily be able to tell one black face from another so his evidence was not of much value. If he, of all people, is allowed to say such things, then surely Mr Motson may.

Unfortunately for Peter Herbert's client, the bank teller was married to a black and had no difficulty in making his identification, and what will re-assure Mr Motson, he was not in the slightest of fended by the suggestion Peter put to him. The bank clerk and Peter Herbert live in the real world. Jonathan Davies, 1 Middle Temple Lane, London EC4A.

SYMPATHISE with Motson's difficulty. Whenever I listen to sports commentators on radio or television, I find it difficult to tell them apart. John Nicholson, 11 Fairbridge Road, London N19 3EW.



Hit and miss

WHY do journalists turn against their favourite acts or genres the moment the public is turned on to them (The music has boiled — close the Garage, January 2)? As any fan of pop music knows, the only good reason for closing the Garage once "bad" music has been turned on is that the music is so good that it is worth listening to. It was at its most magical when its biggest hits were ringing out of every half-decent radio station in Britain. Despite

slating it at the time, journalists now admit that the second Oasis album represented their peak in terms of creativity and popularity. Subculture inspires some of the best (revenue-earning) popular culture, which is why the Government is right to support it. Its only mistake was that it invited walking adverts for recreational drug use like Blur and Oasis to Downing Street for drinks while leaving black British "bad boy" Mark Morrison out in the cold. Joe Taylor, Oxygen 107.9FM, Miley Road, Oxford OX4 1EH.

Skill shortage

READ John Carvel's report. (Trains blamed for wave of street crime, January 2) with despair. The description by the Basic Skills Agency of offending young boys, who could not read or write aged 10, and at 17-25 could not write their name and address without error, etc, adds up to a classic description of dyslexia.

About 10 per cent of the population are affected, the ratio of boys to girls is 4:1. Affected individuals are delayed in their language development, particularly the logical skills, which in turn affects their literacy skills. They can be helped to become literate if they are identified and given specialist teaching. My despair is because I cannot understand why teachers, politicians, the police and journalists have not yet cottoned on to this obvious fact. Dr Jill McKeown, School Medical Officer, Barnsbury Health Clinic, London N1 9QW.

Church fate

FURTHER to Stanley Williams' complaints about the National Trust being saddled with the upkeep of buildings with no architectural merit (Letters, January 2), you should know that the churches are in a worse plight.

I recently received a report from the heritage secretary which underlines how English Heritage has hijacked planning legislation to ensure that churches remain as historic monuments. It may well soon be that the only place you will be able to sing carols will be in the supermarket. Churches, on the other hand, will have turnstiles for tourists to spend rainy days seeing how it once was. Rev Glyn Eatoch, 35 Park Road, Leyland, Preston PR5 2AP.

We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used. Please supply a full address.

Millennium bug starts an epidemic

AS one of the computer programmers of the 70s, who is accused of "thinking they were being clever and causing the need of repairs..." (Leader, January 3), I would like to make some points in our defence.

Computer memory in the 60s and early 70s was very expensive indeed and pressure was always on us to make our programs run in the smallest amount of memory possible. Indeed, programming standards specifically instructed you to save space by reducing data and other data items and structuring your programs efficiently. If this was not done, the programs were unable to run in parallel and were not cost-effective.

If we ever queried the fact that our programs would not run after the millennium, our doubts were always greeted by management with the reply: "You surely don't think that these programs will still be in use in the year 2000..." Christine Hobday, 2 Brand Drive, Langenhoe, Colchester CO6 7LY.

CONCERNS about the millennium bug seem to relate to computers belonging to large organisations, but what about consumer products?

I recently inquired about buying a new video recorder and a shop could advise me whether there would be programming problems after 1999. When I bought a global positioning satellite navigator from observations submitted by 225 individual contributors and 24 local bird societies and clubs. Once again, the centre pages are devoted to superb colour plates of some of the birds for which 1998 will be remembered, such as spoonbills and lesser scaup, the latter being just one of the three firsts for Cheshire and Wirral highlighted in the report. No doubt it was the spoonbills that provided the real excitement, with up to six different birds being present from mid-May into August, and many lucky observers were treated to the incredible sight of nesting rituals and nest-building. This attempt to breed was unsuccessful, but it was so pompously attacked for saying what is perfectly normal (Why this man needs to visit his optician, January 5)? If you have not grown up amongst black people, then it can be difficult upon the instant to identify similar but different faces.

A Country Diary

CHESHIRE: A very welcome addition to my Christmas stocking this year has been the county bird report for 1996 produced by the Cheshire and Wirral Ornithological Society. A systematic list of the 240 species recorded in Cheshire during the year provides a wealth of information sifted by the report compilers from observations submitted by 225 individual contributors and 24 local bird societies and clubs. Once again, the centre pages are devoted to superb colour plates of some of the birds for which 1998 will be remembered, such as spoonbills and lesser scaup, the latter being just one of the three firsts for Cheshire and Wirral highlighted in the report. No doubt it was the spoonbills that provided the real excitement, with up to six different birds being present from mid-May into August, and many lucky observers were treated to the incredible sight of nesting rituals and nest-building. This attempt to breed was unsuccessful, but it was so pompously attacked for saying what is perfectly normal (Why this man needs to visit his optician, January 5)? If you have not grown up amongst black people, then it can be difficult upon the instant to identify similar but different faces.

casual, but it was so pompously attacked for saying what is perfectly normal (Why this man needs to visit his optician, January 5)? If you have not grown up amongst black people, then it can be difficult upon the instant to identify similar but different faces. I remember being in a court once with Peter Herbert, then chairman of a barristers' ethnic committee, whose defence of his client was one of identification. He suggested to the witness, a bank clerk who confronted the robber, that he might not easily be able to tell one black face from another so his evidence was not of much value. If he, of all people, is allowed to say such things, then surely Mr Motson may. Unfortunately for Peter Herbert's client, the bank teller was married to a black and had no difficulty in making his identification, and what will re-assure Mr Motson, he was not in the slightest of fended by the suggestion Peter put to him. The bank clerk and Peter Herbert live in the real world. Jonathan Davies, 1 Middle Temple Lane, London EC4A. SYMPATHISE with Motson's difficulty. Whenever I listen to sports commentators on radio or television, I find it difficult to tell them apart. John Nicholson, 11 Fairbridge Road, London N19 3EW.

مكتبة الصلح

Diary

Charles Nevill

WELL, hello there! Yes, it's that time of the year again, I'm afraid. I know, I know. That 11.59pm deadline, those pylons snapped as if they were so many children's toys, the travel hell, these bugs going round, combined with the sheer bloody strain of producing a newspaper under such circumstances have sapped even the legendary resources and energy of this organisation. Do you remember those foreign men in films where they prop up dead men with rifles on the battlements? Exactly.

So, please, bear with me. I'm game, but I'm not exactly up to speed and on-message, diary-wise. I was still reeling from the shock about Anthony Turner when I discovered that Jeanne and Imran Khan were having problems, too. Still, at least Fergie has at last found some measure of happiness with a bald, separated Italian count, so it's not all gloom.

I'm not sure I can help much with this Cabinet minister and his evil, almost-of-death son, either. I've read all these journalists boasting about being on the inside track, but I would take it with just a teeny pinch of the old sodium chloride if I were you. I've heard nothing and I live in Kensington. Next!

ONE thing I have noticed, though, is a lot of interviews with Michael Parkinson, who is bringing his chat show back, apparently. Such an explosion of interest in a blessing to the diarist with only, how shall we say, a finite stock of material, for it gives me the happy chance to recall and share my encounters with "Parky", as he is known. Actually, there was only one (which was in the mind of the way the Liverpool Echo started its obituary of Anthony Eden, "Lord Avon's visits to Liverpool were comparatively few"). Anyway, I had written a piece about Greg Dyke, the cheeky television chap, and his time at TV-am, in which I mentioned that Parky had considered it beneath his dignity to work with Dyke, the man who brought in Roland Rat. Perhaps Parky has a thing about glove puppets. Whatever, Parky complained, saying this was just not true. My informant, though, was keen to go to court if necessary to swear that it was true. That informant, I can now reveal, was Jonathan Aitken. Which means, thinking about it, that I owe Parky an apology. Sorry, Parky.

WONDER if anybody else is as fed up as I am with the ceaseless carping and cynicism which my colleagues in the media continue to heap upon New Labour? New Year, New Cynicism, I say. You will, of course, have your own views on Peter Mandelson, but you cannot deny that it took guts, real guts, to go to Disney World and have a fluffy bunny placed in your hand, particularly when, with the tap of a wand and the recital of the words, "Hocus Pocus Fish Bones Pocus". It is then turned into eight baby fluffy bunnies. But, even so, I cannot pretend that some aspects of the Millennium Dome do not give rise to a certain anxiety: particularly this giant body, the one which visitors will be able to enter by a door in its heel and then climb inside to explore its organs. But — and the Millennium people confirmed this yesterday — these organs will not include any sex ones. Curious, and curiouser still when one recalls that the dangle bits of the bulldog which featured in the election campaign went mysteriously missing. Just drugs and rock 'n' roll, then. Next!

FINALLY, I should like to pass on a little health worry, regarding this advice that, if you feel faint, you should fit your hands up into the air, thus instantly raising blood pressure and increasing oxygen to the brain. How does this tally with the Glasgow research showing that people who wave their arms about have significantly higher chances of heart attacks? And did you know that licking golf balls can give you hepatitis? Thought not. Bye!

I WONDERS IF WELL, ANYONE'S A MIRACLES... LIKE GETTING THIRSTY.

Europe is a dream, not a nightmare

Commentary
Hugo Young

FOR six months, Britain is the temporary leader of Europe, a project with which the sensible fragment of the Tory party now aligns itself. But a leader in what way? In the presidency, we chair the meetings, nudge the agenda, collaborate, fix and steer. By the end of June there's a fair chance we will have done these things well. Our officials are admired in Europe. One of them, Sir Nigel Wicks, is especially esteemed as chairman of the official committee preparing for the euro. The role of umpire suits our chronic fear of boldness, the mind-set of British politicians for the quarter-century since we entered the European Community.

A competent performance should also advance the Government's larger purpose, which has nothing to do with Europe but a lot to do with Britain. The formal agenda is innumerable. Enlargement, institutional streamlining, agricultural reform, EMU itself...

all must move forward, before the baton passes to Austria, the next leader. But what matters much more is whether Mr Blair can work a change in the assumptions, the deep givens, of British public thinking, which continues to shy away from the concept of 21st-century Britain being, unalterably, a European country. I doubt how hard he is going to try, because I don't think he is willing to acknowledge where these erroneous assumptions begin.

They begin and end with a political misconception. Until the Government is prepared fully to confront the excitement, and the enormity, of "Europe" being a political project, the national conversion stands little chance of being successful. Economic and monetary union, is essentially about politics — a species of political integration, unknowable in detail but axiomatic in principle — and only secondarily about economics. Uttered on the continent, that sentence would sound like the most sudden banality. I cringe even from writing it here. But here it needs to be absorbed and reflected on for more often. The calculated obfuscation of this elementary point goes back a long way. The memory recurred yesterday with the message from the senior Tory faction in favour of the Blair line. This statement blows a devastating hole in the flank of William Hague's ill-judged position-taking. It was bound to happen some time. There's an inalienable European tradition in the Conservative Party, and its exponents are not about to emulate the many latter-day Eurosceptics who suddenly changed opinions they'd supported for decades. But the signatories themselves have something to answer for.

Not one of them, in the long history, has been prepared to present Europe as a dream of Union that transcends the economics underlying it. The main actors 25 years ago, Edward Heath and Geoffrey Howe, achieved an heroic outcome by taking Britain in, but they always treated the political dimension of the exercise. They never told a lie, as the phobes spend much energy trying to prove, but neither did they clarify or exalt the truth. Fearful of causing alarm, they retreated into a single facet of the enterprise, its trading necessity; and, it seems, they still do.

In their message, they hide earlier leaders who saw Europe "not as an opportunity but a threat". But, when they were in power, they respected that deformity themselves. Instead of a clarion call to political destiny, with all its implications, they preferred an approach of wary dissimulation. Even now, supporting the Government line on EMU, they present it as a project from which refusenik-members will suffer primarily in economic terms. The political dimension, still less the need for a new political structure, is not mentioned. Kenneth Clarke once said EMU had no such implications. Of the worthy *gauche*, I think only two have ever really come clean. Leon Brittan has been in Brussels too long to be in any way deluded, and John Gummer is a life-long believer in the EU as the rebirth of western Christendom. For the rest, far preferable though they are to Hague, the EU's political agenda, which they either did or did not understand, has never been seen as fit for spelling out.

This is not a piece of academic history. It is part of the present Government's apparent strategy as well. When Gordon Brown made his key-note statement on October 27, ruling sterling out of EMU in the first wave, he dealt with the political question by simply asserting that he and Mr Blair found there to be no "constitutional bar" to eventual British membership. This opinion was delivered with high and categorical solemnity, as if it were the final judgment of some supreme constitutional court. But that will not do. The Government can't expect, by mere assertion, to get away with begging every question. In our system, Parliament makes up the constitution as it goes along, so there never could be a "bar". That doesn't take account of the issues that arise, profound and difficult political issues, about which there will be, when the time comes, some very bitter argument. In the referendum campaign, for which, along with EMU itself, the Government has set itself to preparing public opinion, the political implications of EMU will be the central ground of the No campaign.

Although I still worry about the economics of EMU, I happen to regard the political consequences as acceptable, even desirable, and have argued as much in this space before. But I know why many people disagree. The argument needs to be fully joined, and if the Yes campaigners do not make it open and honest, the No campaign will be giving their own version of events, laced with seductive charges about a conspiracy of silence on the other side. There needs to be a proper recognition that EMU is not just another trade deal, nor a mere appendage of the single market, but an integrationist development, the main consequence of which is not to prevent Germans being German, or the British British, but to expose the paramount need for improved political accountability.

Prepare and decide is the official strategy. But preparing means more than converting the title to take euros at Marks & Spencer.

EMU means more than converting tills to take euros at Marks & Spencer

While education ministers wring their hands over boys' exam failures, feminist Angela Phillips faces up to a real hard choice

Angela Phillips is the author of *The Trouble with Boys*.

Angela Phillips is the author of *The Trouble with Boys*.

Close schools for girls

WHEN I was at school, it was a well-known fact that boys did not fancy clever girls. So it was necessary to act stupid whenever boys were around and wise parents sent their girls to girls-only schools.

Today girls can have sex and brains too, so they have stopped pretending to be dumb. Now it is boys who are under-achieving and, at a conference in Manchester yesterday, schools minister Stephen Byers blamed "the laddish anti-learning culture" for doing to boys what the fear of not being fancied used to do to girls. And he pledged to do something about it.

Fortunately, something practical can be done almost immediately. Sitting on Education Secretary David Blunkett's desk is a request from the London Borough of Hackney to change Clapton girls-only school into a co-educational school.

But the parents at Clapton are vociferously opposed to the idea. The whisper is that Blunkett will swing the parents' will because "it would be politically difficult" to close one of the borough's four girls-only schools.

Yet if there was ever a week in which it should be politically possible to stand up for boys, then this is it. Hackney has one of the biggest gaps in the country between low exam results for boys and high results for girls.

If Blunkett does refuse Hackney's request, he will be demonstrating that, as many boys in the borough have felt for years, they are not worth educating because the girls always do better. Why else does Hackney allow girls to choose from seven schools, while boys have to squeeze themselves into five?

If, as I believe, poor self-esteem is behind the drop in male attainment, then such a refusal would just confirm their sense of worthlessness.

Hackney suffers a malaise which affects many boroughs where single-sex education was the norm. Parents do not like boys-only schools. They know that sending their sons to a single-sex boys school means buying into precisely that laddish culture that Blunkett and Byers oppose. For a teenage boy, a refusal to conform to the monoculture of their school means a social death which few parents would wish on their offspring, even for the sake of good grades.

While grammar schools and private and religious schools for boys do manage to hang onto an achievement-oriented culture, many boys-only inner-city comps are rapidly becoming places where anyone with brains had better hide them for fear of getting their head kicked in.

Hackney has only one non-Catholic boys-only school left in the borough. It is under-subsidised. But the co-eds are crammed. They have up to 70 per cent boys whose parents want them to be educated with girls.

In order to hang on to those dwindling numbers of girls, some co-ed schools give them special privileges — further alienating the boys, who see them disappearing into a "girls' room" to giggle and eat lunch together. Parents who don't live within close walking distance of a co-ed school often leave the borough.

Opening a new co-ed won't help because it will just spread the girls even more thinly. The only answer is to change co-eds with a kind of jolly contempt for their inability to take control of themselves and stop messing around.

Most studies show little difference in the achievement of girls in single and co-ed schools once their background is taken into account. There is little doubt, however, that the achievements of boys are affected by the school environment.

There is no argument for privileging girls at the expense of boys. We have served our daughters well and they are a credit to us: now it is time to turn our sights on their brothers.

It is really not good enough to put a wall around the girls and then leave the boys outside to fight it out amongst themselves.

Angela Phillips is the author of *The Trouble with Boys*.

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COMMENT AND ANALYSIS 9

No Marx for the duvet theory of unemployment



Mark Steel

IT IS 1998 and everything is New. It is quite possible that by the end of the year our Prime Minister will have delivered an entire speech using only the word "New". The Communist Manifesto by Marx and Engels, on the other hand is 150 years old this month and is therefore considered to be hopelessly out of date.

The idea that theories have no modern relevance because they are old is quite selective. I do not suppose that Tony Blair throws his champagne glass into the air, shouting: "What's the matter? You don't still believe in that gravity nonsense do you? That's 300 years old."

Maybe his bathroom is regularly flooded, because he refuses to believe that 2,000-year-old Archimedes rubbish about the water level rising when you get in the bath.

The Tories are even stranger. A 1980s poster showed a picture of Marx, with the caption "Do you want the country to be run by a 100-year-old corpse?". This was at the time when most Tory ideas came from the Adam Smith Institute, named after an economist who died in 1790. Perhaps they did not realise he was so old, and Cecil Parkinson never understood why Smith did not reply to his requests for a photo shoot with Nigel Lawson.

Yet the Communist Manifesto sold 60,000 copies in Britain last year and is second to the Bible as the best-selling book ever. This is in spite of the fact that it is incredibly difficult to make Marx trendy. Che Guevara was cool enough to have a chain of clothes shops named after him, but it is unlikely there will ever be "Marx for Menswear", with adverts that go: "There is a spectre haunting Europe. The spectre of top-quality sweaters and a wide range of cotton shirts at prices that correspond to their value where $x = \text{labour}$ and $y = \text{the decline in the rate of profit}$."

The most plausible reason for the Manifesto's persistence is that the world is once again unstable and the ideas it presents offer an explanation of why. For example, the idea that competition forces companies to increase productivity, which results in over-production, lay-offs and the whole system falling into crisis, is a more coherent theory than "Take their benefit away and the lazy sods will go back to work".

This theory, which forms the basis of welfare-to-work, assumes that unemployment is caused by the unemployed. The idea is that laziness levels go up and down, for no apparent reason. In the Thirties people became incredibly lethargic, although luckily they snapped out of it in time for the war and then enjoyed 30 years of perkiness before all of a sudden deciding in the late Seventies that they just could not be bothered again.

There was no unemployment in 1960, despite it being relatively simple to claim benefits. But yesterday's Sun, applauding Blair's mission, said: "No longer will young people be able to lie in bed and draw benefit." Unemployment is caused by people deciding to lie in bed. Which explains why it shot up in the 1960s, around the same time as the arrival of the duvet. Make nylon sheets compulsory and there won't be a soul signing on in the land.

The sad thing for Blair is that his ideas are not even new. As the out-of-date Marx noted, in 1830 Henry VIII passed a statute to deal with jobless peasants who were coming into the towns, no doubt to indulge in a spot of aggressive begging. It read: "Sturdy vagabonds be it enacted, that if any such person shall be found coming into any town or village, he shall be whipped to the cart-tail and whipped until blood streams from their bodies, then to swear an oath to put themselves to labour." That day he probably went on the radio and said: "Look, verily cart-tail to work doth offer a wholesome opportunity for our jobless to rid themselves of vagabondage and returneth to labour. But look, the choices we maketh must be tough."

Another New Labour economic theory of recent times, strangely not mentioned of late, has been that our economics should be more like those of south-east Asia. If they had read their Marx they may have realised that although South Korea appeared to be booming, there would come a crisis which either the capitalists or the workers would be made to pay for.

But that would have been dreadfully old-fashioned, so instead they listen to the utterly modern voice of big business. In which case they should have read the businessmen's journal, *The Economist*, which this week explains that in South Korea: "Competition will accelerate bankruptcies and lay-offs, bringing large-scale unemployment to the country for the first time in 20 years." It sincerely hopes, it adds, that the new president can "persuade the unions to accept this belt-tightening".

The ruling class, being a ruling class, is certainly aware that the class society of the Communist Manifesto still exists. Whereas in a couple of years Blair will look at South Korea and think: "Strange. In 1998 they all just seemed to get lazy."

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FIT THE BEST

To my son: don't join the Tories yet



Julian Critchley

Dear Joshua,

YOU wondered idly the other day whether you should join the Tory party and I promised to give the matter some thought. A matter some thought, as it was as well regarded as a job with Merrill Lynch in the City, but, despite much of what has happened recently, politics remains an honourable calling. Yet should you join the Tories?

If so, a cynic might wonder whether you have a taste for the wilderness, living off locusts and wild honey, for it does appear that the party will be out of office for at least two elections and maybe three. Under its new management, it has given an impression of frivolity (the choice of the 36-year-old, untitled Hague as its leader), combined with impertinence (the sacking of Peter Temple-Morris thus reducing a rump of 165 to 164 MPs).

Two factors have profoundly altered British politics: the end of socialism, so-called, and the election of what amounts to a social democratic government in its place. And, at present, England is without enemies, and an uneasy peace has robbed the Tories of the patriotic card.

I fear the party will turn in upon itself and become a nationalist party of the extreme right. As all general elections are won and lost in the centre ground of politics, it will therefore become unelectable. Hague seems to be the captive of the more reactionary elements of his party.

How do you stand, Joshua, on Europe and the common currency? The City, commerce and industry is largely in favour of the euro which could influence your judgment. Public opinion, on the other hand, or at least public opinion as expressed by the Corps of Leader-Writers of our newspapers, appears hostile to the experiment. The common currency must be seen for what it is — a big step on the road to a federal Europe.

The Tory party, which under Macmillan and Heath took us into the Common Market, has always suffered from the hostility of a minority of its members to a United States of Europe, however distant such a prospect might be. Today, the anti-Europeans make up the bulk of the parliamentary party. Such a sea-change would have forced me to become an independent Tory were I still an MP, although I would not have made Temple-Morris's error of publicly flirting with Labour.

I am told that were Central Office to deselect pro-European Tory MPs, Heseltine would run a slate of his own. Such a fissure would delay still further the return to power of a "Conservative" government.

While Labour will stand for middle-class, paternalist-progressive policies with high welfare budgets and corresponding taxation, there will be two types of Toryism on offer in the future: managerialist and internationalist (Chris Patten?) or radical and nationalist (Michael Portillo?). I would prefer a Tory party led by Patten, but Portillo is more likely to succeed Hague after his defeat at the next election.

You are now 27. I was first elected an MP at 26, having disregarded Leo Amery's advice to make money first. If I were you, I would wait 10 years before entering politics. Get some money in the bank. By then, the European Union might have collapsed and the Haguenites proved to be correct.

On the other hand, Europe could be a flourishing federation of nations in which Britain plays a leading part. In which case I would not bother with Westminster with its rorts and rallies, but stand for the European Parliament. It is in Brussels and Strasbourg that the decisions that really matter will be taken.

Your Affectionate Father

The author was a Tory MP for 31 years.

Analysis Drink-driving



The trouble
with boys
9



Cheers. Now deal with the hangover

A lower blood alcohol limit would save lives — but would drivers accept it? By **Christopher Elliott** and **Chris Mihill**

MICK is a firm believer in lowering the legal limit for drink-driving from 80 to 50 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood. Mick should know. He is currently serving a 10-year ban after his fifth offence in 15 years, having narrowly escaped prison.

"I was very lucky not to get a custodial sentence," reflects the 34-year-old from Coventry. "That is largely because I have a small boy to bring up." Instead he has just completed 240 hours' community service and an intensive "alcohol programme".

Mick also keenly admires one of the key proposals under consideration by the Government to bring us into line with other European countries: a two-tier drink-driving limit, under which the courts could impose a shorter driving ban or a fine on those found to be at 50-80mg, while retaining tougher penalties for those above. As he explains, "It would be a good idea to give those caught by the

lower limit such a flaming high fine, such a crutch-hanger that they wouldn't dare drink and drive again — six penalty points should be enough. But above 80, they should face an automatic custodial sentence." This would have meant a lonely time for the boy: Mick was two-and-a-half times over the current limit when stopped a year ago.

The level of the drink-driving limit has been debated since Barbara Castle introduced the breathalyser 30 years ago. Since then, drink-related deaths involving a driver or rider have dropped by more than two-thirds — although for the last four years the numbers have remained static, at 540 each year. This has prompted ministers and campaign groups to seek new ways to move the figures downwards.

Inevitably they look elsewhere in Europe, where most countries have lower limits but much more graduated penalties. In some cases, especially in France and Belgium, drivers may not suffer a ban at all.

It's not just ministers who want a further cut. The police want the limit reduced to 50mg, but as part of a package of measures to reduce drink-driving (such as targeted breath-testing where incidence is high). Tomorrow the Association of Chief Police Officers publishes the England and Wales drink-drive figures for Christmas and the New Year. Scotland's figures — issued yesterday — showed little difference from the previous year, with about 1,000 testing positive out of nearly 200,000 motorists stopped.

ACPO estimates that a cut in the limit to 50mg would lead to 12.5 per cent fewer drink-related accidents. A similar reduction was achieved in Queensland, Australia, after a similar change in the law. Yet those prosecuted tend to be those drivers far over the present limit: more than a third of the 50,000 prosecutions for drink-drive offences each year are against those more than two-and-a-half times over the

limit, those with two drink-driving convictions or those who refuse to provide a sample.

Maria Cape has no doubts. Her 16-year-old daughter Helen was killed 15 years ago while jogging to prepare for a half-marathon. Mrs Cape is not impressed by arguments that a few millilitres here or there will make no difference to the hard core of drivers who regularly offend and are well over the limit.

"THE driver who killed Helen was only just over the limit," says Mrs Cape, whose personal tragedy led her to form the Campaign Against Drink Driving. "Those who have had only a couple of pints kill just as easily as those falling about drunk."

She believes the limit should be 20mg per 100ml of blood, as in Sweden. "You need that limit as some people's metabolism produces alcohol, and it takes care of sherry trifle, mouth-

wash and communion wine. But in Britain one in seven accidents is drink-related. In Sweden it is only one in 15."

Researchers who have studied the effects of alcohol on driving skills are convinced that even one or two drinks can adversely affect performance, and the deterioration increases significantly as intake rises.

Ian Hindmarch, professor of psychopharmacology at Surrey University, has found that even at 50mg the chances of a road accident are doubled compared with a non-drinker. At 80mg, the current British limit, the risk is fourfold. At 160mg, the chance of an accident can be 50 times higher. At 200mg, unconsciousness can occur. Levels above 400mg are commonly fatal.

The idea that a few drinks can be taken without any ill effects on driving has repeatedly been found to be false. In one simulated test among bus drivers with blood alcohol concentrations of 50mg, many thought they could drive through obstacles that were too narrow for their vehicles.

Yet people are confused about what they can legally consume before driving. Conventional wisdom holds that this is around two pints for men, but for many men this amount will push them over the limit. For women, one or two glasses of wine may be enough to put them outside the law. Blood alcohol concentrations vary according to sex, size, body build, type of drink, previous exposure to alcohol, whether it has been taken with food, and how quickly the stomach empties itself.

According to a recent survey by Eagle Star Insurance, 31 per cent of motorists who say they know the limits stated that the average man drinking two pints of lager would remain safely under. In fact this would push most men over. Nearly half (48 per cent) thought that a pint of standard lager and a single measure of brandy contain the same amount of alcohol — whereas the pint is two units, the brandy one.

Elaine Smith, Director of Bromley Alcohol Service, who backs the lower limit, says this confusion regularly "It's not as clear as it might seem," she says. "A lot of women think two glasses of wine are the same. But two glasses of fizzy white Lambrusco at 7 per cent alcohol by volume is about the same as one of a big red wine at 12.5 per cent."

Alcohol is absorbed from both stomach and small intestine, but it passes most rapidly through to the bloodstream if taken on an empty stomach. Food, particularly carbohydrates, retards absorption, but most alcohol will eventually end up in the bloodstream.

Women end up with higher concentrations for the same

amount drunk because they have a smaller blood supply than men, and also because they have less of a chemical in the stomach that breaks down alcohol before it reaches the blood.

The liver deals with about 95 per cent of alcohol clearance from the body although a small amount is excreted directly in urine and breath. The rate at which alcohol is cleared from the body is more or less constant: one unit an hour. A unit of alcohol is roughly half a pint of beer, a small glass of wine or a single measure of spirits. So a man drinking two pints of beer at lunchtime will still have alcohol in his blood-stream four hours later. Someone consuming a bottle of wine (six units) will need at least six hours before all the alcohol has been eliminated.

THIS slow rate of elimination is why people who have been on a serious bender can still be over the drink-drive limit the next day. One study published before Christmas in South Africa showed that if people drank sufficient to acquire a hangover, their attention and concentration could be affected for up to 16

hours. Nor is there any way of speeding up the elimination process. A shower, a cup of coffee, vitamins, or any other way of sobering up will not help.

As the government review gets underway, opinions are polarising. Some, such as the AA, are taking care to sound cautious: it will not yet be drawn on the advisability of lowering the limit. But it points to the disadvantages of a sharp cut. "The success of the drink-driving laws to date has been because it has taken the people with it. But we are beginning to see the first signs of opposition," said Andrew Howard, the AA's head of road safety. "We are hearing from key-holders who are saying, 'What if my business is burgled? Does this mean I can never share a bottle of wine with my wife? People who get last-minute emergency calls from their kids from the disco, saying, 'I badly need a lift.'"

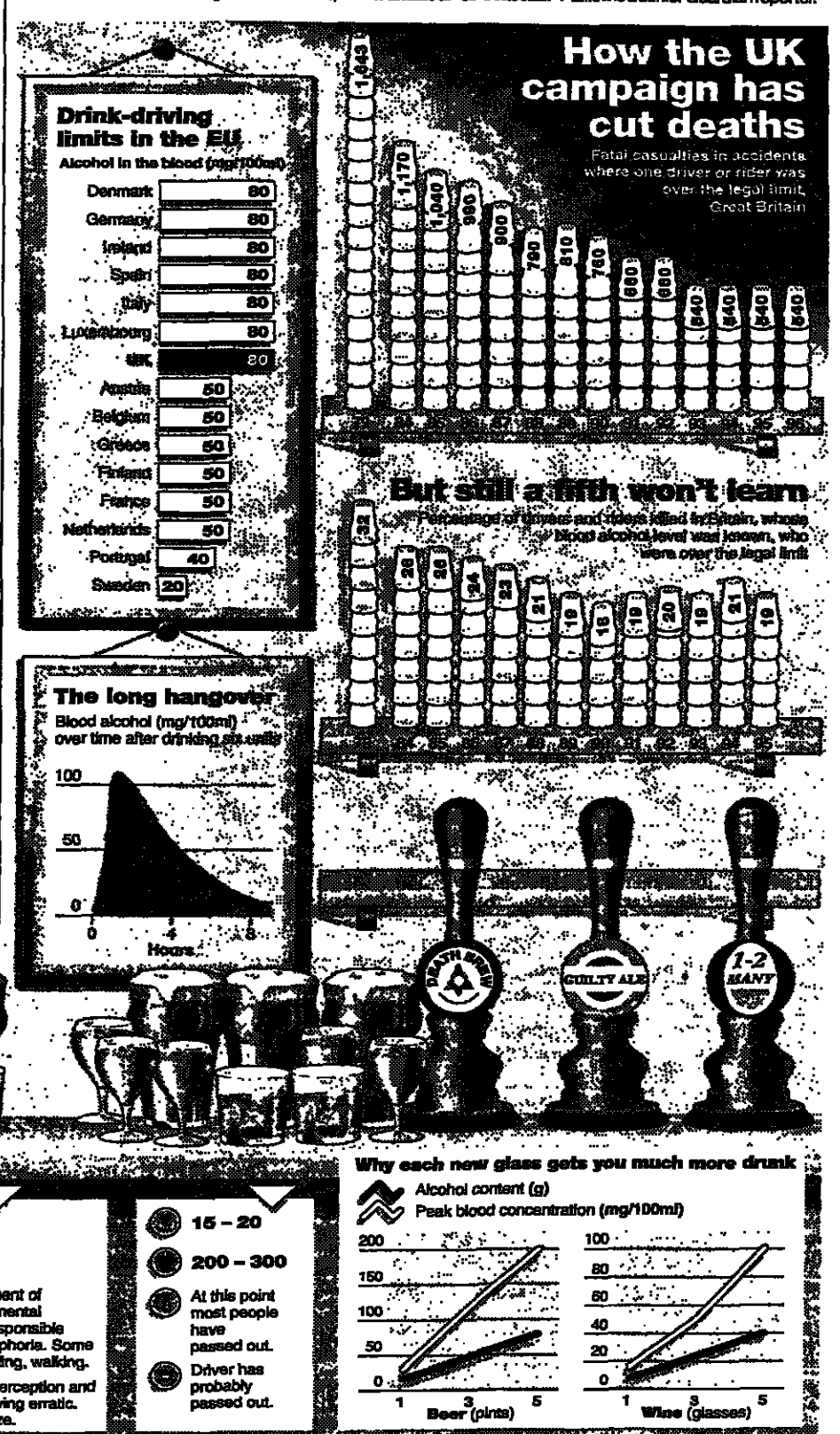
The British Medical Association, however, is clear in its call for a cut to 50mg — although it supports the message that the safest amount to drink before driving is nothing.

The association has pulled back from calling for a legal zero limit, for a number of reasons.

There is a fear that if someone has one drink and knows they are then breaking the law they may be tempted to go on and consume large amounts on the principle of "may as well be hung for sheep as a lamb."

There are also fears that some medical conditions such as diabetes can naturally produce alcohol in the blood, and some products such as mouthwashes which contain alcohol could mean people failing a breathalyser. "The safest option is not to drink at all if driving," says Dr. Mac Armstrong, BMA secretary. "The more you drink, the more dangerous you become."

Sources: (1) Stuart Anderson and James Dawson of the University of Natal, a paper presented to the British Psychological Society on 17/12/97. (2) Graphical sources: Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (Casualty Report Road Accidents in Great Britain, 1996); Health Education Authority, ABC of Alcohol (BMJ); Graphical: Steve Villiers; Finbar Sheehy. (3) Research: Mark Esphar. (4) Chris Mihill is the Guardian's medical correspondent; Christopher Elliott is a senior Guardian reporter.



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FinanceGuardian

Reed sells IPC Magazines

Managers clinch record £860m deal

Simon Beavis
Media Business Editor

CIVEN, the venture capital firm, yesterday won control of IPC Magazines from Reed Elsevier in an £860 million management buyout, one of the largest such deals in British corporate history.

The sale cuts loose the consumer publishing arm of the

Anglo-Dutch media group and creates a self-standing publisher with 74 titles as diverse as New Musical Express, Loaded, Marie Claire, Woman's Own, TV Times, Country Life, Rugby World, and Cage & Aviary Bird. The group will be run by its existing board of directors, led by chief executive Mike Matthews.

But there was speculation last night that the new company — employing 1,900 staff

— could be forced to push through a far-reaching cost-cutting programme to shore up the group's position in the highly competitive £1.5 billion a year magazine publishing market.

Civen pulled off the deal at breakneck pace after intensive negotiations with Reed Elsevier and its advisers, SBC Warburg Dillon Reed, over Christmas. It is understood that 10 bids were submitted for the business, of which five were from rival magazine publishing groups, many of which could have run into problems with competition authorities.

The publishing group — which is trying to complete a £20 billion merger with Dutch publisher Wolters Kluwer —

said it had plumped for the Civen bid because it provided "a quick, clean and unconditional sale".

A spokesman said: "Civen offered a very good price which in our view and the view of our advisers was unlikely to be bettered."

News that Reed was to quit consumer publishing to concentrate on its business and specialist titles was first reported in the Guardian in August. But IPC was not officially put up for sale until October when the company said it would dispose of all of its consumer titles except New Scientist.

Nigel Stapleton, the co-chairman of Reed Elsevier, said: "We are pleased to have agreed the sale of IPC Maga-

zines to management and Civen on attractive terms which reflect the high quality of the business and its prospects."

Civen is backed by a range of equity partners while Goldman Sachs is underwriting £300 million of debt financing.

Brian Linden, a Civen director, said IPC represented an "exceptional investment opportunity" and promised that the group would fund a further expansion of the business to ensure it remained a market leader. "IPC has a culture of excellence and rarely does such a high quality and profitable portfolio of titles become available within the publishing industry," he said.

IPC made profits in 1996 of £63 million on sales of £314 million.

Mr Matthews expressed delight that the group had been kept together as a single entity when many in the City had argued that Reed would realise a bigger price if the company was sold off in pieces.

He said news of the deal "heralds a great sense of opportunity for the company". But he added: "It also lays down challenges for everyone in the organisation to meet the business objectives that we shall face as an independent company."

A number of rival potential bidders for the business emerged over the last month led by H. Bauer, of Germany. Bertelsmann, Hachette and Emap were also said to be interested.

Notebook

History's warning in filched phrase



Edited by Mark Milner

FOR those who believe in such things, it was perhaps not the best of omens that the Government's long-awaited New Deal for the unemployed was launched yesterday with gale-force winds battering Britain.

Labour has an awful lot riding on the success of its "welfare to work" strategy; it cannot afford to be blown off course.

Yet the danger of that happening is real. Policy-makers are waking up to the fact that the financial crisis in East Asia is not merely a patch of choppy water through which the global economy can glide, but a large and menacing iceberg with Titanic-style potential.

Alan Greenspan's comments in Chicago at the weekend illustrate how the mood has changed on the bridge of the SS Free Enterprise. Central bankers, the chairman of the Federal Reserve warned, should be prepared for a rethink because while the problem of inflation is disappearing, the threat of deflation is looming up dead ahead.

It remains to be seen whether Mr Greenspan's colleagues in the fraternity of central bankers got the message. The world's financial markets certainly did, with bond markets everywhere soaring on the expectation that the Fed would not raise US short-term interest rates. On Wall Street, the benchmark 30-year bond hit a record low yield of 5.785 per cent.

Lower long-term interest rates would be good for the global economy, since they make investment cheaper. For Europe, rich in capital-goods industries, they should be doubly welcome.

But let us not get too carried away. As Bill Martin, the chief economist at UBS, points out in a new paper, real bond yields in the West are still above 4 per cent, more than double their level in the 1950s and 1960s.

The explanation, Mr Martin avers, is the escalation of government debt, which has pushed up the cost of borrowing worldwide. Tighter fiscal policy would help reduce long bond rates further.

But governments, with a few exceptions, did not set out to run profligate fiscal policies. The loss of control over budget deficits was the consequence of a ferocious monetary squeeze designed to rid the global economy of the inflationary excesses of the 1970s.

Mr Martin's policy solution is broadly supported by Mr Greenspan, appears to be for fiscal stringency to be accompanied by a relaxation of monetary policy. There has to be a trade-off, as there was during the 1930s.

Here, Gordon Brown is doing his bit with his deficit reduction programme, though he may yet come to wish he had retained the power to regulate interest rates as well.

As it is, he will have to hope that the Bank of England is as alive to deflation as Mr Greenspan. Otherwise, Mr Brown's blitheness from Franklin Roosevelt of the phrase "New Deal" could be more prescient than he ever imagined. The US New Deal was, after all, the Democrats' response to the century's worst slump.

Unstable homes

SPEAKING of deflation, how are we to view last month's surprise fall in average UK house prices, as measured by the Halifax House Price Index? A statistical blip or early warning of asset price deflation? The answer is that it is probably neither.

The first thing to note is that December's statistics should be treated with a great deal of caution. One month's figures are never a very good guide to the trend, and December's are always subject to more distortions than most, given the low volume of transactions in the run-up to Christmas.

But the statistics do concur with anecdotal evidence from estate agents suggesting that the market is coming off the boil.

It would be surprising if it did not, considering that there have been five interest rate rises since the election. However, just as it would be wrong to dismiss the figures altogether as a statistical anomaly, it would also be premature to interpret them as heralding a renewed bout of negative equity. Like the economy in general, the pace of recovery in the housing market will almost certainly ease this year, especially if unemployment edges upwards.

Provided the authorities keep a sharp eye on the policy mix, and the economy does not go into freefall, house prices in a country where the supply of land is more or less fixed and demand keeps rising should continue to increase roughly in line with real earnings. But do not expect fireworks.

Auric angst

ONE market which has taken the deflation message on board with a vengeance is the gold market. The metal is at its least precious for 18 years. But then when the world's leading central banker sets the bond markets alight, gold bugs know their favourite inflation hedge is in for a hard time.

But it is not just a central banker's economy that has depressed the gold market. Central banks have been net sellers of gold of late and there is talk of more disposals to come. There are rumours, for example, that some of Europe's central banks will sell gold in the run-up to monetary union. Mr Greenspan has simply helped to talk down a falling market.

Toyota set to confirm £200m investment in Welsh car plant

David Goss and Nicholas Bamister

TOYOTA will deliver a significant boost to the UK later this week by confirming plans for a multi-million-pound investment at its Diesel plant in North Wales.

The investment, to build engines for its new European factory in Valenciennes, France, is worth as much as £200 million, and is to be unveiled on Friday during Tony Blair's visit to Japan.

It will follow Jaguar's confirmation, expected today, that it will build its new small car, the X400, at Halewood, the Liverpool plant operated by its US parent, Ford.

Both investments will create hundreds of jobs and help compensate for the fact that Toyota chose to set up its second European plant in France rather than expand at

Burnaston, Derbyshire, and also that thousands of jobs in the UK are in jeopardy as South Korean firms retrench.

Toyota's UK-based officials refused to comment last night, but it is common knowledge in Whitehall that the Prime Minister and senior company executives will announce the new investment during his official visit.

The Japanese firm set up its UK engine-plant on the site of the old Shorton steelworks five years ago and its 170-strong workforce now turns out an annual 100,000 1.6 or 1.8 litre engines for the Corolla and new Avensis models. Last May a £50 million investment boosted potential output to 200,000 engines.

The new £200 million plant at Valenciennes, will eventually produce 200,000 models of a small car, the Funtime, destined for the European market.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.47	France 9.594	Italy 2.649	Singapore 2.75
Austria 20.22	Germany 2.572	Malta 0.858	South Africa 7.78
Belgium 33.21	Greece 458.31	Netherlands 3.228	Spain 241.70
Canada 2.291	Hong Kong 12.37	New Zealand 2.78	Sweden 12.78
Cyprus 0.845	India 84.46	Norway 11.76	Switzerland 2.25
Denmark 11.21	Ireland 1.12	Portugal 203.75	Turkey 128.370
Finland 17.07	Israel 5.51	Saudi Arabia 6.05	USA 1.804

Supplied by Reuters Dark (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel).

Long haul to full employment



Erica Madelin attends an interview at Sheffield JobCentre yesterday under the New Deal programme for 18 to 24-year-olds

PHOTOGRAPH: DON MAPHES

Brown plea: don't waste young lives

Michael White
Political Editor

GORDON Brown yesterday launched Labour's long-heralded New Deal for jobless young Britons with an emotional appeal to employers to join the Government's "national crusade" to end a waste of talent and social division.

As expected, the Chancellor confirmed a £250 million extension of the nationwide pilot scheme which forms the basis of his election pledge to take 250,000 18-to-24-year-olds from welfare to work. It will mean that eventually long-term unemployed people over 25 will also have to take up an offer from four government training or work options — or face benefit cuts.

Launching one of 13 regional "battler" pilot projects, Mr Brown made plain in a speech in Dundee just how high the stakes are for the £3 billion programme over five years.

"Today begins the long

haul towards full employment in the years to come," he declared, stressing that "rights go hand in hand with responsibilities and, for young people offered new responsibilities, from today there will be no option of simply staying at home on full benefit doing nothing."

Mr Brown made a plea to employers — to back "a national crusade to clear away and for all the social divisions



that are entrenched in our society because of unemployment" — and gave an implicit warning that ministers will not tolerate exploitation of the scheme. A helpline is being set up to assist New Deal youngsters file complaints.

The six-month pilot scheme, which the Education and Employment Secretary, David Blunkett, and his deputy, Andrew Smith, will administer, is compulsory. It is intended to help 18-to-24-year-olds who claim Jobseeker's Allowance and have been without work for more than six months.

They will be offered one or more of four options: a full or part-time job with an employer; a six-month job with the Government's Environment Taskforce; a job for six months in the voluntary sector; or full-time education on an approved course.

The jobs options will all include part-time education or skills-creating training leading to recognised accreditation. But young people who refuse the options offered them will face benefit reductions, officials stressed yesterday, as ministers launched a high-profile media campaign.

Labour critics believe jobs can be found only if the economy continues to expand — a point warning to the Treasury and Bank of England against excessive deflation. Anxious to play the good corporate citizen, such household names as Sainsbury, Marks & Spencer, Tesco, Ford and Jaguar have pledged their involvement in the scheme.

Jobless student sees benefit of carrot and stick

Martin Wainwright on gateway to work

SHEFFIELD'S pilot "gateway" for the welfare to work initiative had been open only 20 minutes when its first client, 22-year-old Erica Madelin, arrived for her initial assessment.

The Sheffield University history graduate has found the world of job-seeking a difficult and discouraging grind since July. "I wish that we'd been sat down earlier at university and made to get on with it. I was too busy concentrating on my degree," she says.

Hopeful letters for jobs over the past six months have produced nothing but a gradual slide in self-confidence. Just before Christmas she received an appointment letter from Sheffield's main JobCentre, triggered by Erica's six months on the dole. And yesterday she had an interview with Employment Service adviser Joanne Kemp, who encouraged her to focus her job-hunting plans.

"Journalism, publishing, maybe museum work," she said after the introductory session, the first of four weeks' teamwork with Ms Kemp which makes up the scheme's gateway. At the end of January, the second stage kicks in if Erica has failed to find a job. She may then be offered a government-subsidised job plus training, community work, environmental projects or a return to full-time education. If she rejects her welfare to work options her benefits stop.

"It's a carrot and stick operation and there seems to be quite a lot of stick," says Erica. "I have to admit I'm a bit suspicious that the Government is really looking for any way to get us off the unemployment statistics. Then it can give itself a big pat on the back."

Such concerns are rejected by the New Deal team in Sheffield. Joy Chapman, manager of Rockingham Court JobCentre, says: "This emphasis on the long-term unemployed 18-24s is something

the staff had been pressing for themselves, so there's a great feeling of wanting to make it work."

The Employment Service's former sparring partners, the Sheffield Co-ordinating Centre for Action on Unemployment, agree. Development worker Doug Low says: "There's been a sea change in the culture at the ES since the change of government. They're enthusiastic about working with us now and using New Deal funding for the intermediate labour market (ILM) we've been developing."

The Sheffield ILM, funded by single regional agencies, has successfully placed 18 to 24-year-olds in voluntary sector jobs, with two days a week set aside for vocational training and "personal development" — learning a language, how to drive or other skills which could help to land longer term work.

"It appeals because it is a job, not yet another palliative scheme," says the centre's director Paul Toner. The pilot New Deal has yet to touch other desperate young jobseekers like Stuart Wilson, aged 21. He has been stuck with petrol station work for two years despite being skilled in engineering. He says: "I've RSA qualifications in all three stages of welding, but there's nowt about — and I've heard nowt about this welfare to work."

Market makers are keenly awaiting the outcome of meetings of leading Western banks in New York on how to respond to South Korea's request for its short term foreign debt repayments to be rolled over.

due to leave for Washington shortly to seek softer conditions from the International Monetary Fund for its rescue funds, said the economy shrank by 0.7 per cent in 1997.

Little more than a month ago he told the IMF that Thailand's gross domestic product would grow by about 0.6 per cent in 1997. Analysts believe that Thailand's economy will shrink by 3 per cent this year.

Over the past month, battered East Asian economies

Going from Jakarta to Seoul only dollars will do

Nick Cumming-Bruce
In Bangkok

ALREADY enfeebled East Asian currencies took a new hammering yesterday as fears of falling economic growth in the region drove the Indonesian rupiah, Malaysian ringgit and Thai baht to record lows.

South Korea's won also dropped sharply on its first day of trading in the new

year, but share prices still managed to rise, helped by positive comments by international financier George Soros and expectations that foreign investment could be about to return to the economy.

The Indonesian rupiah became the world's worst performing currency after a 5.6 per cent plunge yesterday to 6,750 against the dollar.

"There is no bottom for the rupiah any more," a Jakarta-

based analyst said. "Economic theory does not explain this."

The ringgit also fell, by 2.4 per cent to 4,073 against the dollar, and the baht plummeted 5.2 per cent to finish at 50.3.

The Philippines peso weakened 1.6 per cent, and even the Singapore dollar, the most robust of the region's currencies, slipped 0.6 per cent.

"This is the worst crisis ever experienced by these

currencies; it won't go away overnight," said Danny Kang of Bank Brussels Lambert in Singapore.

The sharp depreciation in their currencies — raising the cost of servicing dollar-denominated debt and lifting the price of imports — will keep Asian interest rates high, which in turn will make fears of slower growth a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Thailand's finance minister, Tarrin Nimmmanhaeminda,

due to leave for Washington shortly to seek softer conditions from the International Monetary Fund for its rescue funds, said the economy shrank by 0.7 per cent in 1997.

Little more than a month ago he told the IMF that Thailand's gross domestic product would grow by about 0.6 per cent in 1997. Analysts believe that Thailand's economy will shrink by 3 per cent this year.

Over the past month, battered East Asian economies

كندا والولايات المتحدة

Conner storms back to lead the fleet, page 13
Emerson in the Boro doghouse, page 14

Henman kicks off with a victory, page 14
Warne joins the 300 club, page 15

SportsGuardian

FA Cup, third round

Tottenham Hotspur 3, Fulham 1

Spurs keep their nerve

Martin Thorpe

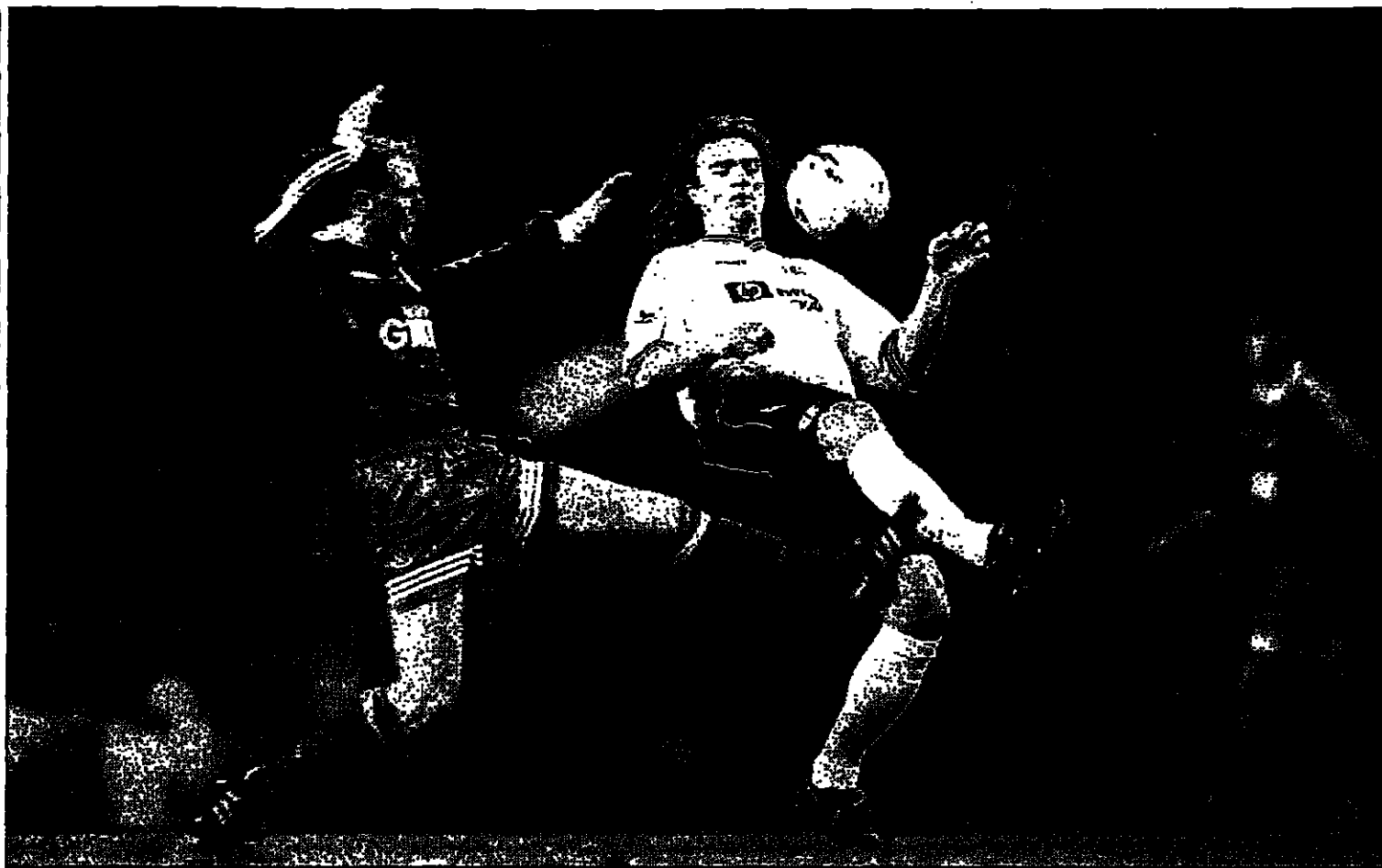
ON A bitter night in north London a shaft of light broke through the clouds of Tottenham Hotspur's season as they progressed to a fourth-round tie against Barnsley. Okay, this victory was only against Fulham but at White Hart Lane these days, any sign of hope is worth getting excited about.

Spurs started the game with nine first-team players out injured, after David Ginola shrugged off his hamstring strain to play against the club run by the man who took him to Newcastle, Kevin Keegan. Unfortunately Spurs' main inspiration in recent games had misjudged his fitness and limped off two minutes before the break with a recurrence of the injury.

While the Tottenham starting line-up was still recognisable, this was Second Division Fulham's chance, having spent millions on their team, to show that their aim of playing league games against Premiership sides was on course. Going two goals down after just 30 minutes suggested they still had many things to learn.

In contrast, after all their problems on and off the pitch, Tottenham could not have got off to a more morale-boosting start. The visitors' defence was troubled early on by the Spurs attacking formation which saw Ginola and Jose Dominguez burst menacingly from deep on the wings with Jürgen Klinsmann the lone striker up-front.

It was a typical surge from Dominguez which set up the opening goal on 20 minutes, the little Portuguese cutting in from the right and firing a low ball into the Fulham area at pace. Stephen Clemence pushed the ball against Alan Neilson who half-blocked, and the midfielder pounced on the ricochet to score his first



Stretching out... Tottenham's David Ginola is challenged by the Fulham midfielder Paul Trollope last night

PHOTOGRAPH: SHAUN BOTTRELL

senior goal for Spurs in front of his father Ray, the former England goalkeeper.

Their second followed eight minutes later when Ramon Vega, on the near post, chested down Clemence's corner and was allowed too much space to turn and play the ball across the face of the goal. It struck Colin Calderwood on the thigh and from three yards cannoned over the line.

But despite Spurs' bright

start, Fulham did not look overawed and gave Ian Walker in the Spurs goal plenty to think about, memorably so on 36 minutes when Paul Trollope bent a 19-yard free-kick around the wall and against the post.

Fulham were given more cause for optimism with the departure of Ginola, forcing Spurs to revert to a straight 4-4-2 with the substitute Paul Mahon joining Klinsmann up front and the debutant

Garry Brady moving to the right wing.

With nothing to lose, it was no surprise Ray Wilkins' side began the second half with increased zest. Their reward came nine minutes after the re-start when the full-back Matthew Lawrence broke down the right and fired in a wicked cross. Neil Smith, the captain of Spurs' 1988 FA Youth Cup-winning side, slid between two defenders to score against his old

side with his first goal for the Cottagers.

In recent league games Spurs have crumbled after losing a goal, but although Lawrence went close with a shot that Walker took two attempts to gather, this time they struck back almost immediately to go 3-1 ahead.

On 62 minutes Dominguez again broke down the left and crossed into the Fulham area where Brady, a former Scotland youth international,

headed against the post. Mark Taylor in the Fulham goal was caught unawares as the ball came back to him. Agonisingly it squirmed from his grasp and, as Taylor scrambled after it, he could only push it over the line.

Tottenham Hotspur (4-5-1): Walker; Carr, Campbell, Vega, Wilson; Dominguez, Calderwood, Clemence, Brady, Ginola; Klinsmann.
Fulham (4-3-1-2): Taylor; Lawrence, Coleman, Neilson, Harriss; Smith, Brownwell, Trollope, Hayward; Mahon; Puchner.

Referee: G. Poul (Ting).

Motty's action replay of a slight mistake



Jim White

YOU have to feel sorry for poor old Motty. John Motson, the nation's favourite

sheepskin anorak, plunged his foot right in the midst of it over the weekend. As he himself might have wryly chuckled: "My word, ha ha, that was the most sustained racially insensitive remark made on British radio since the last Edinburgh last went on a royal visit overseas."

What Motson did was to suggest, while being interviewed on Radio 5, that when a team contained several black players it made the commentator's life more difficult, since it was hard to distinguish accurately between them. He then, on the Today programme yesterday morning, proved that his myopia extended into his political sensitivities when he said he couldn't understand why anyone could take offence at his remarks. They weren't, he said, intended to be remotely racist. He wasn't like that.

After all Garth Crooks, one of his best colleagues, is black. To put the remark in context, Motson has always had a terror of mis-identifying players. It is the idiosyncrasy of the nerd: getting things wrong really hurts.

Just before the FA Cup final of 1992 I interviewed the great man about his preparations for the event. The last Saturday before the game he went to see Sunderland play in the league, to get a look at them, he said, before they trotted out at Wembley, and he asked me to meet him at the team's pre-match hotel.

There I found him standing at reception, staring at each of the players from a distance of about six inches as they came up to pay their bills. "I like to familiarise myself with their facial characteristics," he said as he mentally measured up a rather alarmed Sunderland defender. His method so disturbed several players that I overheard one warn a teammate about what lay in store when he came to check out. "Bloody hell, don't go over there," he said in a loud stage whisper as he strode away across the lobby. "I just got eyeballed by Motty."

Perhaps typically, Motson, absorbed in his professional preparations, did not appear to hear and carried on with his

close-quarters homework. Later that day, as we watched Sunderland play, he pointed to a member of the opposition. "Pity that young lad won't be gracing the famous turf on the big day," he said. "Nice ginger hair. Perfect for identification."

He went on to tell me exactly what he has now told Eleanor Oldroyd, on the radio on Friday, about black players. I didn't report his comments as I thought he probably didn't realise the implication of what he was saying. Either that or I have no nose for a story.

Live radio is less editorially forgiving. But what was disappointing about his reaction to those who took his remarks the wrong way was to reproach them for being oversensitive. In short he adopted the old "blame political correctness" defence. Those who know him will appreciate he meant no harm, but the implication of what he said is that all black players look alike.

And that is a slight. Nothing like as offensive, maybe, as Ron Noades's they-don't-like-it-up-em-when-the-weather-turns-parkly nonsense or the kind of casual they've-no-bottle dismissiveness which for so long characterised the Yorkshire cricket establishment's approach to locally born players of Asian descent.

It is a slight none the less, because it exhibits thought-free stereotyping on racial lines. Besides it is quite bizarre to suggest it is tricky to tell, say, Les Ferdinand and Ruel Fox apart because they are both black. And that is not just because, thanks to Sir Les's nagging strain, they are very unlikely to be on the same pitch in the first place.

BRITISH football likes to preen itself on the strides it has made in eradicating racism. And indeed things have improved in the past 10 years. The routine taunting by fans and opponents alike has all but disappeared. So much so that when Andy Cole was greeted by monkey grunts in Turin, or when that strange chapter of racism who attach themselves to Walsley Town spewed out their bile against the black members of Bristol Rovers in the FA Cup recently, onlookers could hardly believe what they were hearing.

Complacency, though, is a dangerous game. And even if he might not deserve the opprobrium that has been landed on him, it would do no harm if a figure as admired as Motty (albeit in an ironic sort of way) admitted to a mistake and ate a slice of humble pie. If nothing else, it would show there was a brain above that sheepskin collar.

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Stevenage aim to keep home advantage for Newcastle tie

STEVENAGE BOROUGH have done their utmost to make life difficult for Newcastle United by aiming to keep home advantage for their FA Cup fourth-round tie.

The Vauxhall Conference club intend almost to double the capacity of their ground by installing an extra 6,000 seats for the match, which would then be shown live on Sunday January 25 by Sky, which would pay them £150,000. The club will discuss the

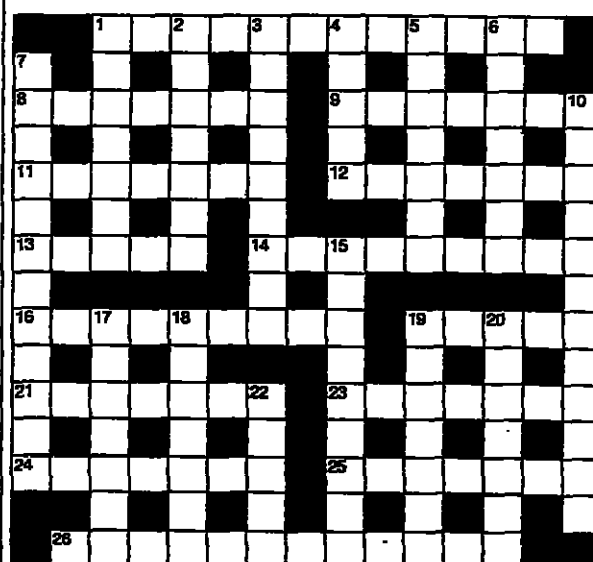
proposal with the police and safety officials this morning and expect to confirm the decision today.

However, Newcastle indicated last night that they would be unhappy to play at Broadhall Way. "We are really concerned about the safety aspects," said the director of football administration Russell Cushing. "To put up 6,000 seats seems an awful lot, especially when structures like this have a history of instability in high winds."

absorbed in his professional preparations, did not appear to hear and carried on with his

Guardian Crossword No 21,164

Set by Fawley

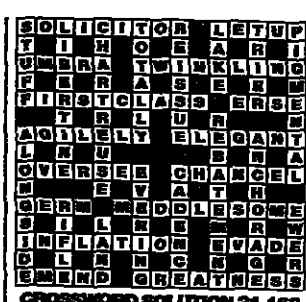


Across

- 1,28 Produce stacks of material in fine summer season? (4,3,5,3,3,6)
- 8 Policeman using a Rover, perhaps (7)
- 9 Worried, as uncle is removing (7)
- 11 Supply milk for delivery (7)
- 12 Hooker showing one the ropes after being thrown out (7)
- 13 One ensconced in seat, revelling in French composer (5)
- 14 Make chairs comfy, having finished Rod's accommodation (5)
- 16 Renun of The Godfather? Can almost everyone get the foreign channel? (4,5)
- 19 Yes, in Russia, tea may be served here (5)

Down

- 21 Put out again by silly series about union (7)
- 23 Discover report of excellent reason for suspicion (4,3)
- 24 Started to hurry, having got this (7)
- 25 Most of cosmetic women's used is not so smooth (7)
- 26 See 1 across
- 1 Torn, in some cases, having missed English exam, can't re-sit (4,3)
- 2 Doctor screened in Irish county (7)
- 3 Rugby player appearing in pants (5)
- 4 Neil Brigham (5)
- 5 Case set in country house with ancient interior (7)
- 6 Tight security - maniac's at the bottom of something hairy! (4-3)

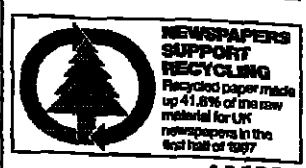


CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,163

- 7 Second in 1 across? Arguably, an eventual cause of breakdown (3,4,5)
- 10 Ray gives one a boost, if 26 (5,7)
- 15 Offer to make a speech (4,5)
- 17 Final comment from The Stones (7)
- 18 Clay model of a conspirator (7)
- 19 Fellow joining university, during first month, appears a womaniser (3,4)
- 20 Gear casing worn? (7)
- 22 Some marbles exhibited the Spanish spirit (5)

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